

## Massacre in Class P1



Massacre of the innocents: Teacher Gwenne Mayor, who died in the carnage at Dunblane primary school, pictured with the first intake of her P1 class last September, many of whom were also killed

STEVE BOGGAN  
Chief Reporter

Less than an hour before, their mothers and fathers were asking if they had cleaned their teeth, telling them to fasten their shoes properly and checking they had packed their gym kit.

It would have been a scene played out in hundreds of thousands of homes across the land. In Dunblane yesterday it was to end in a bloody spectacle which was to leave a small Scottish town bereft and desolate and the rest of the nation deeply shocked.

Only one youngster on these smiling rows is thought to have been spared the agony of a bullet from Thomas Hamilton's guns. Sixteen lay dead, while three fought for their lives and nine, many paralysed with shock, recovered in hospitals near their school, Dunblane Primary. Henceforth, that will be a name synonymous with mass murder and grief in a way that only Hungerford had been before.

Hamilton, a 43-year-old known to the police, strode into the school yesterday morning shortly after assembly and unleashed wave after wave of bullets into the children and their teacher, Gwenne Mayor, before turning one of his four

guns on himself.

The hall was still echoing to the sound of his fury when a despairing call was made to the police. Chief Constable William Wilson of the Central Scotland force repeated details of that call with a quivering voice yesterday. He quoted the caller as saying simply: "A man with a gun is running amok in Dunblane Primary School."

That man was Hamilton, who had been removed as a Scout leader for "unsuitable behaviour" yet allowed to set up his own boys' clubs, a man who plastered his home with pictures of young boys. A man whose home, according to his neighbours, was raided by police two years ago.

Harbouring a grudge over his ejection from the Scout movement in 1974, Hamilton appears to have chosen maximum violence as a means of making a point.

"It was right next to my

classroom," said Steven Hopper, an 11-year-old survivor of Hamilton's reasoning. "He seemed to come out of the gymnasium and he was just firing at something. He was coming towards me, so I just dived under my desk when he pointed and fired at us."

"It was pretty scary when he started firing at our classroom window because all the glass smashed in and I got hit by a piece."

The deed was over almost as soon as it had begun. "It could have taken no more than two or three minutes," the Chief Constable said.

The depth of the tragedy was that it involved not just children, but the smallest children in the school. The authorities gave out their ages as between four and a half and five and a half. It was as if the precision of the measure was a reflection of their delicate ages.

Outside, desperate, hyster-



Gunman: Thomas Hamilton

ical parents arrived to await news of their children. The pain was unavoidable, the grief in-

stant. "It was absolute chaos," said Vhairi Gardner, 25, who

queued with other mothers to find out if her daughter Emma, six, was among the dead.

"I was told to go there and I had to give my name to police and then wait for quite a while as they were looking to see if Emma was alive. It's shocking to think what has happened, but my daughter is okay."

Stewart Weir was hit in the leg as Hamilton ran into the

gym. His father, Robert, said: "Stewart thought the gunman was shooting at him."

"He got hit in the leg so he took a run and just hid with another wee girl. It is lucky the man turned the gun on himself

before he got the rest of the kids. "He knows they have been shot but I don't think he really knows the extent of the damage yet."

Last night, as this quiet, well-to-do commuter town for Edinburgh and Glasgow, was trying desperately to come to terms with the depth and breadth of its grief, it emerged that it had taken years for Hamilton to sink into bitterness and insanity.

It was in the early 1970s that he was thrown out of the Scout movement. A source within the Scout Association said it had been approached about him by police as recently as 1993.

In Kent Road, Stirling, where Hamilton lived alone in a four three-bedroomed flat, neighbours said he was smart, bespectacled, balding and polite. But there was something else.

"I always found him very creepy because he would look

straight through you whenever he talked to you," said Cathleen Kerr, 71, who lives opposite. "He was having a cup of coffee at my house last summer when he asked whether I would like to see his latest photographs. He had a passion for photography."

"When I got over there, I saw his living room was plastered with photographs of boys from seven upwards. Some had no tops on and some were in swimming trunks on in Loch Lomond."

"When I saw the pictures I thought, 'oh ... what?' ... you know the sort of thing. Hamilton, who described himself as a 'freelance photographer' on his tax returns, had converted one bedroom into a photographic and video studio."

Grace Ogilvie, 62, another neighbour, was once taken indoors by Hamilton to watch a video of young boys frolicking in swimming trunks. "He said

they were his boys doing exercise," she said. "It made me feel very uncomfortable but he seemed very proud of it."

They were members of the boys clubs he ran at Bannockburn, Tillicoultry and Dunblane. According to neighbours, he used to drive them around in a bright yellow 12-seater minibus thought to be owned by Central Scotland Regional Council. It is understood he had had a dispute with the council in the 1980s over his plans to form another boys' club called Stirling Rovers.

The reason for Hamilton's descent into madness may be rooted in his fractious relationships with authority. He wanted to be close to young children and there were those who questioned his motives.

Whatever the truth, in his twisted mind he believed he was innocent. And, to prove the point, Buckingham Palace confirmed last night that he had written to the Queen less than a week ago to say he was the subject of a vendetta by the Scout Association.

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## DEATH IN DUNBLANE

# He must have chased the pupils all over the place, shooting at them till they fell

JAMES CUSICK

It was a bitterly cold morning yesterday when at 8.45am the usual traffic began arriving at the school gates in Doune Road, Dunblane.

The grass around Dunblane Primary School was covered with a thin layer of frost and snow.

For those in the small town who walked to school, their red pullovers and black trousers or skirts would have been covered up with a decent duflie or heavy coat. Even those ferried to school by mums in cars, especially the infants of Class P1, would have been well wrapped up.

There was the usual gathering of parents exchanging school-gate conversation and the noise of their small sons and daughters breaking into a run towards the playground as the nine o'clock start arrived.

Dunblane Primary is a good school. Happy pupils. Satisfied parents. Dedicated teachers.

Yesterday it was business as usual. Ten-year-old Jamie Christie's P6 class began their Wednesday writing test.

For the 29 pupils of Primary One, taught by Gwennie Mayor, there was a break from their reading and writing lessons.

They headed for the school gymnasium at the back of the low-rise modern school building. Those in the hut classrooms dotted around the main building - built to take a growing school population - could look from their desks and see P1 enjoying their games.

There is less than 100 yards between the main fence and gates and the two entrances that take you inside Dunblane Primary. Once inside the main entrance, there is the school office staff working behind a glass partition. Between 9.20 and 9.25am 43-year-old Thomas Hamilton passed through the school gates, walked towards the school office and walked unchallenged into the school corridors. He lived in Stirling.

As the pupils of Dunblane were eating their breakfast yesterday, Hamilton would have left his home.

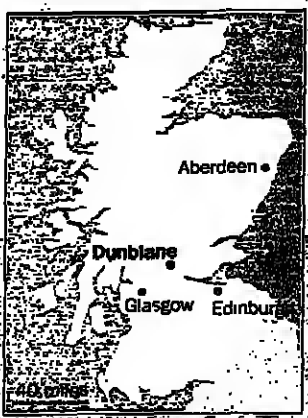
Had anyone looked closely at him yesterday morning they would have spotted him carrying what looked like hi-tech ear-muffs. Few would have recognised them as car protectors used to deaden the noise in gun-club galleries.

Had Hamilton passed through the metal detectors now common in American schools, an alarm would have gone off.

But this was a quiet commuter town in central Scotland. There was no alarm to detect the four automatic handguns Hamilton was carrying.

Once inside the school, Hamilton turned sharp right and passed through the empty

## Countdown to the massacre in Dunblane Primary



school dining area into the changing-room area and then burst through the doors of the gymnasium.

Inside the large hall were the 29 pupils of P1. PE teacher Eileen Harrell and P1's own teacher Gwennie Mayor.

At some point Hamilton must have stopped, and with premeditation, put the muffs over his ears for protection. What followed next will remain in the minds of those who survived the massacre of the innocents of P1. The time was 9.30am.

John McEwan, 49, who co-ordinated the ambulance operation at the school, was one of the first to see the results of two or three minutes of carnage inside the gymnasium.

"It was like a scene out of a medieval hell torture chamber. The scene inside the school was utterly unbelievable. He must have chased the pupils all over the place, shooting at them till they fell."

"Even if he was an excellent shot there's no way he would have got them all if they had been sitting still."

Gwennie Mayor died trying to protect the children in her care. Most of those who died suffered head wounds.

Mr McEwan added: "What will stick with me for a long time is the look of terror on the face of a five-year-old child who had a bullet hole through his

arm and couldn't comprehend what had happened. It was just terrible to see his wee face."

The horror did not stop in the gymnasium. Through the glass windows those in the outside huts would have seen and heard the chaos.

Hamilton must have known where the huts were and went through the gymnasium doors towards them. The time would have been 9.35am.

By now everyone in the school would have been scared, with some screaming. Teachers in the rest of the school told their pupils to hide under their desks.

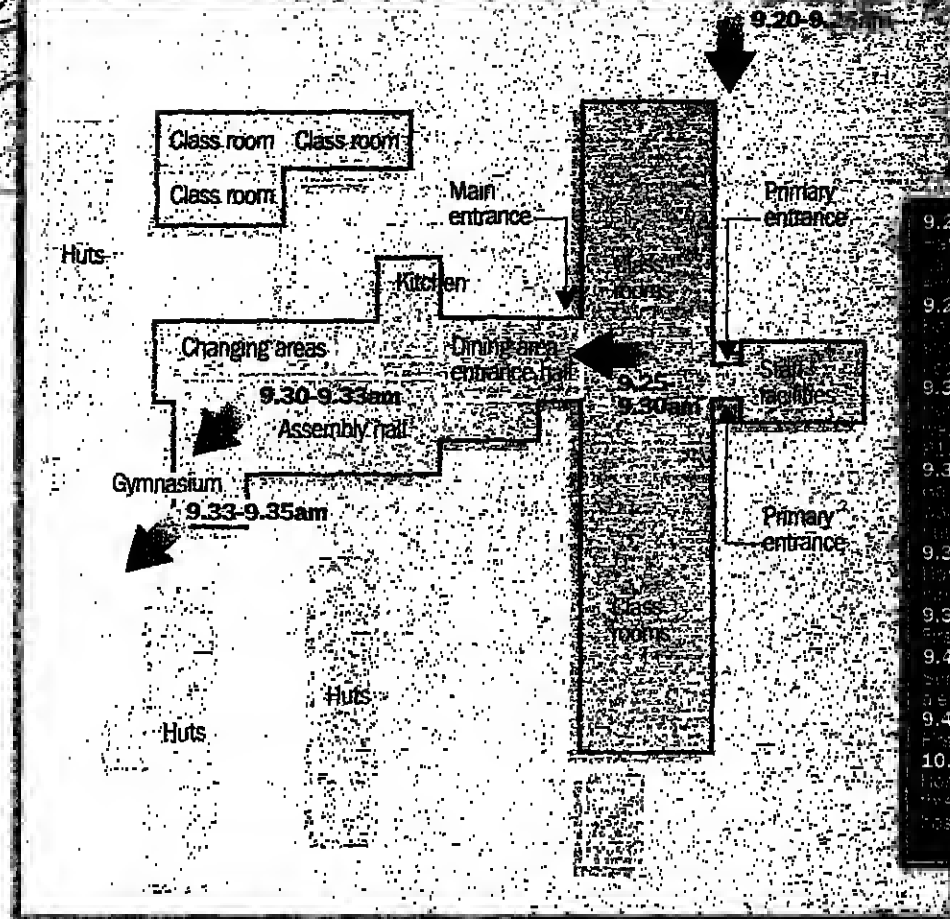
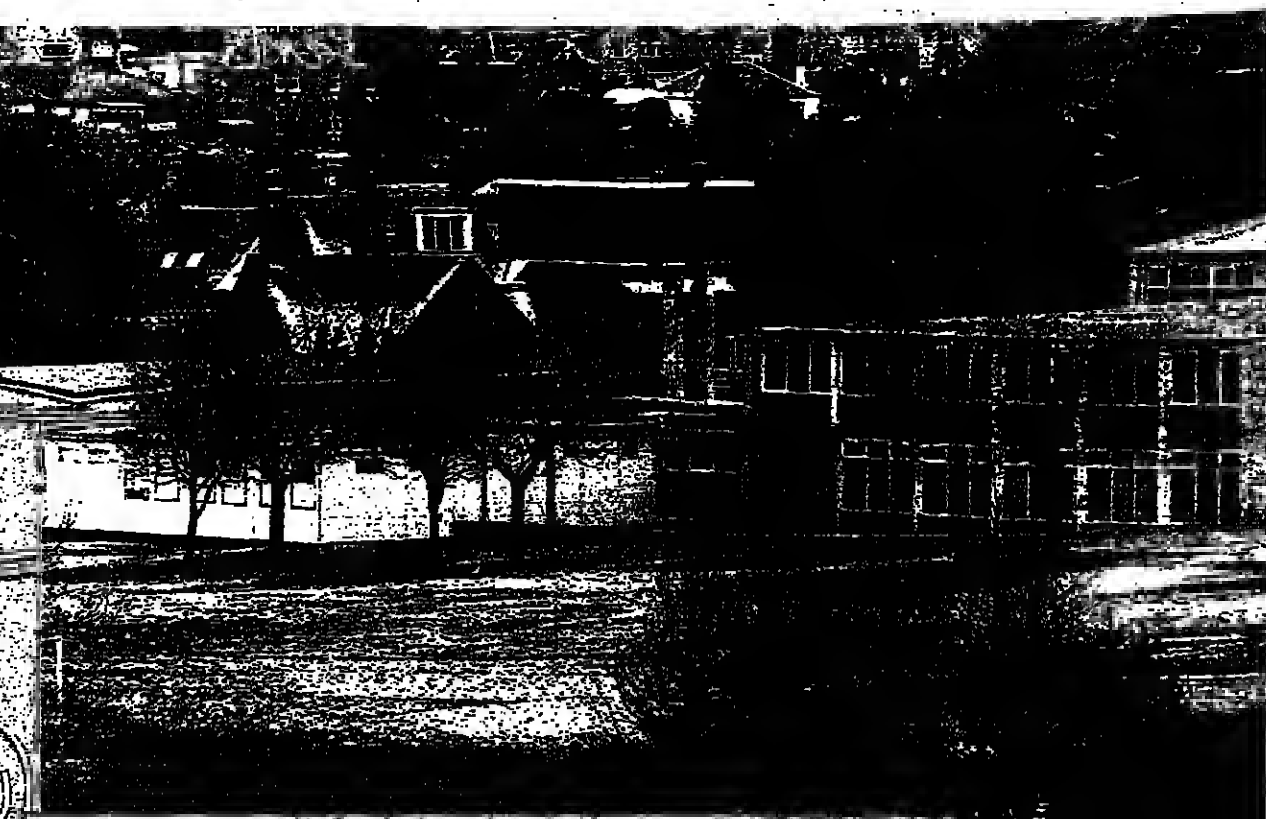
Within 60 seconds of Hamilton firing on the windows of the huts, he must have chosen to end his own life.

He put the barrel of one of the automatic guns into his mouth and pulled the trigger. An ambulance man, and a veteran of the horrors of the clean-up after the Lockerbie bombing, found Hamilton lying on the ground. There was no sympathy. "I saw the gunman lying there and a handgun by his side. For the first time in my life I had this overwhelming desire to mutilate that corpse - I know that sounds terrible. I had to really force myself not to kick him as I walked by." The officer in charge at the said the horror would leave him and his crew mentally scarred for life.

The first call to the police for help was just before 9.38am. The police's own alert message was brief: "Man with gun running amok in Dunblane Primary School."

The first officers arrived at the school within six minutes of the call. Officers described how they were met by a "scene of carnage".

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Between 9.40am and 10.00am Stirling Royal Infirmary was told it was on a full

alert. Parents in Dunblane began telephoning each other for every scrap of news, good or bad.

The first of a fleet of ambulances began arriving at the primary school. Helicopters were brought in to bring those urgently injured to hospital. Teams of doctors and surgeons were rushed to the school to deal with emergency cases on

the spot. At 10.30 Stirling Royal Infirmary admitted 13 children and three adults.

One pupil died in the hospital, adding to the total of 15 children and their teacher killed at the school. Last night at 5.30pm, eight hours after the massacre, the police reported that some of the parents who work outside the town were still not aware that there had been

deaths at the school. Wally Bundy, a taxi driver, who was brought up in Dunblane, spent yesterday ferrying worried parents from their workplaces in Stirling to the school. "Nothing ever happens in Dunblane. My parents were married in the cathedral and this whole thing is disgusting. You can imagine it happening in America or in a big city. But not here."

The Queen issued a message through Mr Forsyth, saying: "I was deeply shocked by the appalling news from Dunblane. In asking you to pass my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy to the families of all those who were killed or injured, and to the injured themselves, I am sure I share in the grief and horror of the whole country."

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown expressed how difficult it was to grasp the enormity of what had happened. "This is a terrible tragedy and everyone's sympathy will be with the pupils, parents and staff of the school. At times like this, it is impossible to find words to express how you feel. It is just terrible."

Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "My heart and prayers go out to the families of those who have died and to all those injured and traumatised by this evil deed."

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, sent condolences "to all the parents, families and staff who are grieving and mourning. They are in my prayers together with those still in hospital."

Bashir Mann, a spokesman for the Muslim Community in Scotland, said: "To show our horror at the tragedy in Dunblane we would like to send our sympathy to the parents."

Tony Newton, leader of the House of Commons, announced that a full statement would be made in the Commons today. Dunblane's "shock and grief" would be shared throughout Britain, he said.

George Varnava, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Schools have taken on many new responsibilities, teachers feel they have to cater for all these needs. The focus is on schools and that makes them vulnerable."

"If someone who is clearly demented is looking for a victim or a group of victims, a school in the community is not only an obvious target but an easy target."

## Town pays tribute to talents of highly regarded teacher

PAUL FIELD

The grieving family of teacher Gwennie Mayor were last night struggling to come to terms with her death.

At their home in the nearby town of Bridge of Allan, husband Rodney Mayor was comforting the couple's two daughters, Esther, 21, and 20-year-old Deborah.

The family were too upset to answer the door of their home and it is understood they were unable to meet a local minister who visited the house yesterday afternoon.

A woman who lives near the tight-knit family said local people could not believe what had happened. "They seemed a very nice family and were often seen coming and going. They looked very happy," she said.

"Everyone I know has been numbed at what has happened. You think it happens in places like America - not to someone just across the street who did not seem to have a care in the world."

Mrs Mayor, 44, enjoyed a successful teaching career spanning 25 years after qualifying at the Nottingham College of Education in 1971.

She taught at Bothkennar primary school in the Scottish Central region from 1971-72 before moving to the Bridge of Allan primary school in the town she made her home.

After a career break beginning in 1974 when her first daughter was born, she went back to teaching in August 1980, initially as a teacher of learning support and then as a nursery teacher at two primary schools in the region. She eventually took up her position at Dunblane primary school in October 1988.

The civic leader of the Central Region Council, Councillor Anne Wallace, paid tribute to Mrs Mayor. "She was an experienced and highly regarded teacher. She shared her musical and art skills as well as her enjoyment of sport with her pupils."

Stuart Denham, whose five-year-old son Scott was a pupil in Mrs Mayor's class said: "She was an excellent teacher."

Mrs Mayor was a squash enthusiast and played regularly at the Bridge of Allan Sports Club. The manager said: "She was a member here. We are deeply shocked at what has happened and our thoughts are with her family."

The landlord of the nearby Westerton Arms pub, Patrick Peron, said the town was in a state of profound shock. "She was a very cheery woman and always smiled when I saw her. She was highly thought of."

A neighbour said: "She was a very well liked lady. Everyone round here is in a terrible state of shock."

The headteacher of the school, Ron Taylor, was praised by Central Police Chief Constable William Wilson as a "tower of strength" to pupils, staff and parents.

Shadow Scottish Secretary George Robertson paid tribute to the courage of Mr Taylor. "He has been a hero in circumstances which other people would have found unbearable. You cannot speak highly enough of him."

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John McEwan, 49, who co-ordinated the ambulance operation at the school, said: "It was like a scene out of a medieval hell torture chamber."

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Mr McEwan, who was also the officer in charge at the Lockerbie air disaster, told how

the horror would leave him and his crew mentally scarred for life.

"The crews came out stunned at what they had seen."

"We have an emergency plan which swings into operation but no one was prepared for anything like this. I know it is going to take my crews a very long time to get over what they've seen - if at all. John added: "What will stick with me for a long time is the look of terror on the face of a 5-year-old child who had a bullet hole through their arm and couldn't comprehend what had happened. It was just terrible to see his wee face. The crews returned with everyone unable to believe what had happened."

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	£6,000	18.9%	£216.96	£7,792.28
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## DEATH IN DUNBLANE

# Everyone knows someone who has been affected. It has had an appalling effect

MARY BRAID and JAMES CUSICK

Voice breaking, Gerry McDermott, a school-board member, was struggling, like everyone else in Dunblane yesterday, to find the right words. He tried the usual clichés - nightmare, shock, devastation. He paused, and then eventually said: "My neighbour's daughter was killed this morning. My own children played with Emma as recently as yesterday."

"No one here can believe what has happened. Everyone knows someone who knows someone who has been affected. It has had an appalling effect. His son Gerry, five, was in the class below the children who died. Mr McDermott said that he had gone to the school shortly after the shooting after being called by a friend. Police, he said, had done their best to tell parents as quickly as possible whether their children were alive, injured or had died. But the wait in a local hotel must have been agonising."

"Words cannot describe the feeling of all the parents involved. Some are in a dreadful state." Emma's mother, he said, was inconsolable.

Like the "middle England" description given to Hungerford after the massacre there almost a decade ago, Dunblane is classically middle Scotland.

The quiet, largely middle-class, small town is an enclosed community which accepts easily the label of being a comfortable, mostly Conservative, commuter community.

In the streets yesterday there were plenty of tears, and in houses all over the town families gathered round television sets waiting for the next news bulletin, struggling like Gerry McDermott to take in the enormity of the atrocity.

The faces of frantic parents had spelt out the horror as they ran to Dunblane School - not knowing if their children were dead or alive. Less than an hour before, they had kissed their youngsters goodbye at the school gates.

It had been just like any other day until news reports started filtering through of a shooting. In disbelief they strained to hear the details or knocked on neighbours' doors - not wanting to believe their ears.

Dunblane is an affluent, solid town. "If you could think of a place where this would be less likely to happen, it would be Dunblane," said one woman who lives near the school. "You read about these things in the paper but never here, never Dunblane."

Brian Owen spent more than two hours at the school collecting his son Stuart who was in the nursery.

As he left with his Stuart and his daughter Catrina, who had been off school, he said: "You never think it is going to happen to you. Parents are very upset now and very concerned. All our thoughts are with the parents whose children have been killed or injured. I am lucky because my children are OK."

Parents arrived at the school and gave police their names, which were being matched up with children's names. Those whose children had been killed were taken to one side.

Mr Owen, warden of Scottish Churches House in Dunblane, added: "All of us are in shock and hugging each other and trying to support each other. Until you have got your own child back you are not sure."

When asked about the impact the tragedy would have on the small town, he said: "Dunblane is a small community and everybody knows everybody else. I think the whole community will pull together, it is that kind of place."

Outside the school, which was cordoned off all day yesterday, Edith and Ron Lloyd, both in their seventies, said that their daughter Judith Ballance was devastated by events. She runs a play school in the town and many of the dead children were former charges. "She's in a state of shock," Mr Lloyd said.

He added that Mrs Ballance was trying to explain to her seven-year-old daughter, a pupil at the school, exactly what had happened. Like the 700 other children, who attend the primary, Mrs Ballance's daughter had been unaware of the horrific shooting. "The children were protected by teachers from what had happened," said Mr Lloyd. "They were just allowed home this afternoon."

"Our granddaughter doesn't know exactly what has happened. Her mum has just said



Shocked parents trying to comfort each other outside Dunblane Primary yesterday morning. Everywhere, there was horrified disbelief

that an ill man came to the school and did harm to the children, and that she won't be seeing some of them again. She's very, very quiet at the moment. She just nodded her head.

"It's so awful. The funerals will be terrible. Those 16 little coffins."

The town was full of horrific tales. Dunblane Primary, a

two-storey building surrounded by pre-fabricated huts, was eerily quiet yesterday afternoon, but bullet holes could be seen in the windows of the gymnasium at the centre of the school where the killings took place.

Many of those whose houses back on to the school grounds were completely unaware that the shootings had taken place un-

til they heard the wail of police sirens and helicopters overhead.

Joan Kimey, a pensioner, said: "Although I live next to the school, I found out when my daughter rang me from Germany. She had already heard it on the news."

In the Westlands Hotel, where parents had gathered earlier to hear if their children

were among the dead and injured, the regulars spoke in whispers. A group talked about one mother they had just seen on television. "She was distraught," said one woman. "It's absolutely unbelievable."

Her friend said he had heard it on the radio news at work and had immediately jumped in his car to drive back to Dunblane.

When he arrived police roadblocks were already operating. "Even when I heard it on the radio, I just could not relate it to Dunblane," he said. "As everyone will tell you, nothing ever happens here."

Dunblane, if you lived in inner cities of Glasgow or Edinburgh, was regarded as a haven. Its town-centre tennis club and

golf club offered signs of tranquillity and confidence in an oasis of Tory support inside the Secretary of State for Scotland's constituency. But while Hungerford has gradually been counselled back to normality and had to accept a new identity, the Scottish community is still in deep shock from the trauma of yesterday.

## Gun-loving loner took pictures of semi-naked boys

LOUISE JURY and MARY BRAID

In the shocked hours following the Dunblane shooting, psychiatrists painted a picture of the likely killer. Thomas Hamilton fitted it perfectly.

A gun-loving unemployed loner with an unhealthy interest in children and teenagers, he had been a disturbing figure to parents in Dunblane for some years. After being kicked out of the Scouts more than 20 years ago because of concerns about his conduct he continued courting the company of young people by running his own youth groups for them.

Yesterday, snippets of stories - of photographs he took of semi-naked boys, the unpleasant terror of a former youth club member - were recalled. Thomas Hamilton took over running the 46th Stirling Scout Group in July 1973 only to be kicked out the following year when parents complained after a camp. A Scout Association spokesman said yesterday: "We requested him to hand in his leader's warrant after some complaints about unstable and possibly improper behaviour."

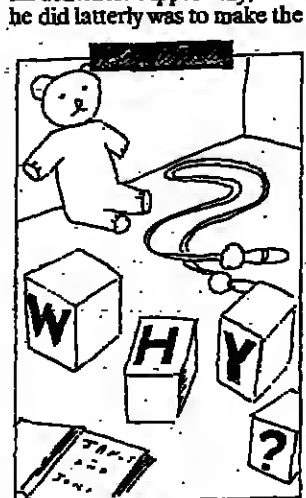
In the following years he made several attempts to resume as Scout leader, all rebuffed. Instead, he formed his own youth groups, including one called the Stirling Rovers for young boys at Dunblane High School. But he remained anxious to return to the Scouts. Five days ago, he is understood to have written to the Queen to plead his case.

A sixth-form pupil at the school said everyone knew of him. "The rumours were that he had a dodgy past and a possible record of abuse against children."

Simon Smiley, 15, recalled how Hamilton liked the boys to stand with their chests pushed out until their ribs showed and that he used to make them run and do a half mile while he videotaped them. Yet after several parents removed boys from the club, he had sent out a letter to parents denying the stories about him.

Grace Ogilvie, who lived near Hamilton's two-bedroom council flat in the Brachead district of Stirling, said he sometimes took the boys on holiday to Loch Lomond in a van. He fell out with the local authorities in 1984 when he was refused permission to use a hall for his youth group. On appeal to the local government ombudsman, he was allowed to continue.

Stirling regional councillor Frena Davidson, who lives in Dunblane, said there had been growing concern from parents in recent years. It is understood that twice, in 1993 and 1994, local police made inquiries about his activities. "Apparently, what he did latterly was to make the



shirt and anorak. Freelance photographer Sandy Leathley, 27, was employed by Hamilton for six weeks two years ago for work including taking pictures of boys at the clubs he ran. He told how Hamilton once offered to show him handguns and live ammunition, an offer he declined. "He seemed to me to be very proud that he had the guns," Mr Leathley said.

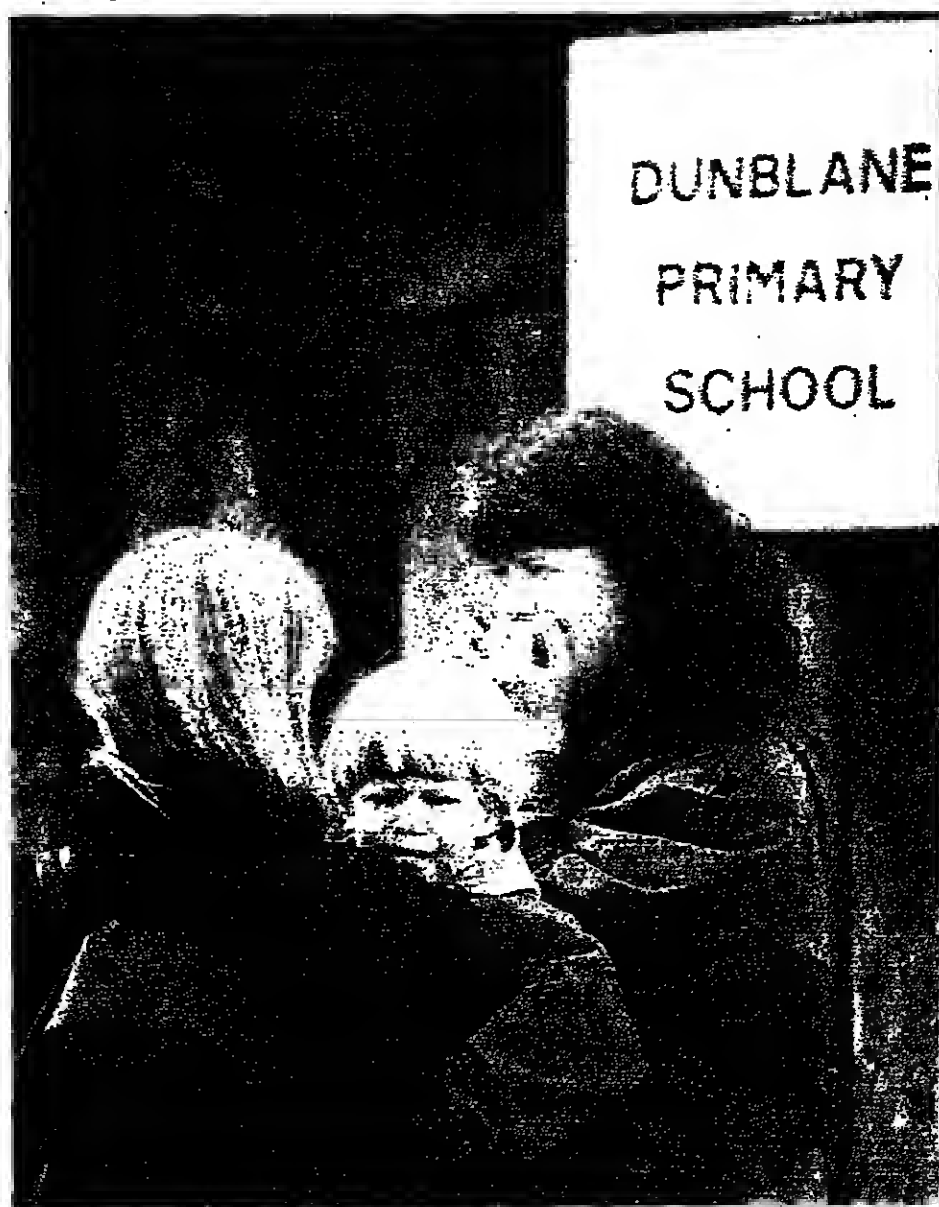
Acquaintances described him as a "non-mixer, a bit of an oddball who never had much to say". A local journalist told how she had been unhappy to give publicity to his clubs. "He made your flesh crawl," she said. He once belonged to the local gun club.

In Cowan Street, Dunblane, where Hamilton ran a DIY shop until the early 1980s, a fellow shopkeeper described him as a private person with no friends. He had not been well liked. "His prices were very high... We had differences in the way we conducted our businesses. But he did well enough from his business to make a good living for himself and drive a nice car."

Psychiatrists say mass killers tend to harbour a grudge, to feel rejected and resentful. Last night, Hamilton's state of mind was a mystery. Details of his personal life were unconfirmed.

Yet there was perhaps one clue to his most recent thinking in reports that just five days ago he had written to the Queen accusing the Scout Association of mounting a campaign to sully his reputation. Twenty-two years after his Scout leader's warrant was withdrawn - eight since the last time it is known he re-applied for it - the refusal to have gnawed away at him. In his letter, he is thought to have accused the Scout movement of maladministration and claimed the council had prevented him from carrying out "valuable" youth work.

But as Hamilton lay dead yesterday, fears and suspicions about him had proved all too accurate.



Face of fear: Parents gathering at Dunblane primary school Photograph: Drew Farrell

## Killing spree followed established pattern

JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

The shooting dead of 16 children and a teacher is Britain's biggest mass murder involving a gunman.

It eclipses the Hungerford massacre, in which Michael Ryan gunned down 16 people in 1987, and is the latest incident in an alarming trend of attacks involving schools.

Yesterday's deaths make Thomas Hamilton Britain's third biggest mass murderer, not only killing more people than Ryan but also more than Dennis Nilsen, who killed 16 people and hid their bodies at his

home in North London, Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, who took 13 lives, and Fred West who killed at least 12.

The country's biggest mass killer remains John Thompson, who murdered 37 people after he set light to The Spanish Club, in London, in revenge for being overcharged for a rum and coke. He was jailed for life in 1981.

Mary Ann Cotton poisoned 20 people with arsenic, including three husbands, children, step-children, friends and relatives with arsenic. She was hanged in 1873.

Dunblane follows rising concern over violence in and

around schools. In December headteacher Philip Lawrence was stabbed to death outside his school in West London as he tried to help one of his pupils who was being attacked. In 1994 a man armed with a replica gun and a knife burst into a classroom at Hall Garth School, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, and stabbed to death a 12-year-old girl and wounded two others. Stephen Wilkinson, 31, was jailed for life in December for manslaughter.

Hamilton's spree follows a well-established pattern involving lone gunmen. Similar apparently random killings have occurred throughout the world

over the past decade. In New Zealand in 1990 11 people were shot dead in Aramoana, which has a population of just 90.

In September last year 16 people were killed in the southern French town of Cuers when a French teenager ran amok with a rifle. Eric Borci, 16, who committed suicide after the spree, had argued with his parents over where he should live.

In June of the same year a 24-year-old army shooting instructor killed seven people, including five women, in the central Swedish town of Falun.

In December 1993 a gunman walked through the aisle of a packed rush-hour commuter

## Psychiatrists try to explain the unexplainable

There have been enough mass killings for psychiatrists around the world to adopt a classification that helps them try to explain the unexplainable.

Dr Clive Meux, a consultant forensic psychiatrist at Broadmoor Hospital and a senior lecturer in forensic psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, described yesterday as "an appalling tragedy".

Mass killings like Dunblane, he said, have been split in recent years into three broad groups: mass murders, spree killings, and serial killings. The mass homicides at Dunblane will fit into one of the first two. "At Hungerford," said Dr Meux, "Michael Ryan killed his victims in more than one place. That is categorised as a spree. But this killer appears to have shot all his victims in one place so this is a mass murder."

One of psychiatry's most studied mass murders was the McDonald's massacre in the United States where 40 people were shot and 21 died.

"We now divide these killings into three further sub-groups," said Dr Meux. "The pseudo-commando is generally a younger man, obsessed with fire arms... The second group is the psychotic killer, generally a person severely mentally ill. But a lot of such killers are not mentally ill. Not all suffer from

schizophrenia. The third group is called "set and run" killers, who plan their murders.

Dr Meux said: "Difficult as it may be to understand, some individuals who carry out such killings are not suffering from mental illness. This man may not have an illness, yet we ask why did he do this? We can't say."

There would have been no dispute among psychiatrists, he said, about his problems. "He would have had problems with communication, probably would not have talked, he would have displaced his feelings. He would have put his problems elsewhere, put them somewhere perhaps where they had no real relevance, such as this school and these youngsters. And his suicide indicated he would have been severely depressed."

Like Dr Meux, Professor Peter McGuffin, of the University of Wales College of Medicine, warned against merely assuming madness. "Fortunately these mass killings are so rare that no single psychiatrist or police expert has enough experience to understand them fully. They will happen again."

train in Garden City, just outside New York City, and randomly shot at passengers, killing four people and wounding at least 17 others.

Five months earlier a man carrying two semi-automatic weapons, a handgun and a bag with hundreds of bullets walked into a law firm in San Francisco and opened fire, killing nine people. He then shot himself.

A man armed with an automatic weapon slammed his truck into a Texas cafeteria 1991 in the town of Killeen and opened fire on the lunch-time crowd, killing 23 people. The gunman then went into a toilet and killed himself.



# Love, comfort and trust form foundations for rebuilding the little children's future

LIZ HUNT  
Health Editor

Specialist teams of crisis support workers were last night helping the victims of the Dunblane massacre deal with the aftermath of the tragedy, as experts warned of the far-reaching effects on families and emergency workers.

Within hours of the shootings, major incident teams from Stirling - established after the Lockerbie disaster and comprising psychologists, social workers and psychiatric nurses - were on hand, and those in Edinburgh and Glasgow on stand-by.

Dr James Thomson, senior lecturer in psychology at University College, London, and director of a trauma stress clinic, said they would be under intense pressure to deal with the "high levels of traumatisation among people in the school, both children and adults".

Marion Gibson, a social worker with more than 20 years experience of the Irish troubles,

who trained some of the support workers now in Dunblane, described the "terrible uniqueness" of the shootings.

"This is the one we have all been dreading," she said last night. "It is a landmark tragedy. No amount of training can prepare for the death of so many very young children, for so much tragedy. You have to go back to the Aberfan tragedy in 1966 to find something similar."

Psychological "first aid" will be offered initially, said Mrs Gibson, who works for the South and East Belfast Health and Social Services Trust. "Love, comfort, and trust are the foundations for counselling for the future. The little children are vulnerable. They have no frame of reference, not even the language to describe what has happened."

Mrs Gibson also warned of the "ripple" effect of such a tragedy, which has serious consequences for those not directly touched by it and puts them at risk of post-traumatic stress syndrome. She joined other ex-

perts in urging that the school becomes the focus of community mourning.

Crisis support workers will be called on to help, according to Wendy Morris, founder of TACT (Trauma After Care Trust). "People are in shock. They won't be receptive to counselling when what they really need is comfort and answers to questions such as 'where can I see my child's body'."

The number of children involved - there were 700 at Dunblane Primary School - present special problems for support workers. Dr Dora Black, a consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist, and director of an NHS Traumatic Stress Clinic in London said yesterday. "Very young children can be as traumatised as older ones. They have less cognitive understanding," she said.

However, Dr Black said psychiatrists will draw on the pioneering work of Professor Robert Pynoos, a Californian psychiatrist who studied an incident in a Los Angeles school

when a sniper killed one teacher and injured pupils, and how counselling helped them.

Preventive intervention - in which children are helped to process and understand what they have seen - is the key to limiting the destructive effects of trauma and should be available to all involved, she added. Of these, a proportion will need treatment - counselling or very rarely drugs - to help them recover.

Peter Hodgkinson, a director of the Centre for Crisis Psychology, whose team help children cope with the impact of the M40 school mini-bus crash in 1993 which left 12 children and their teacher dead, said there would be a lot of "fear" among the children.

They may regress to early childhood fears of the dark or become clingy and not want to be left alone, he said. "It is going to be very much a test for the adults around them, the teachers and their families, to be able to deal with all of this in the right way."

## Fears of new gun culture beyond the law

JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

The massacre at Dunblane was carried out with the use of four handguns - weapons that are among hundreds of thousands of legally and illegally held firearms in Britain.

News that firearms have been used in another murder comes amid police warnings of a growing gun culture in the United Kingdom. Nine people were shot dead in 1994 and police recorded about 13,000 offences in which firearms were reportedly used. In 1994 there were 140,200 certificates issued for firearms and 670,000 for shotguns. Estimates of illegally held firearms, vary from 500,000 to more than one million.

Critics say it is still too easy for anyone to obtain a licence for a firearm to be used in a gun club and the Firearms Consultative Committee, which advises the Government, has recommended more is done to stop psychologically disturbed people obtaining firearms.

Currently applicants for certificates have to satisfy the police that they will not be used to endanger the public. Anyone with a criminal record or is considered mentally unstable are likely to be barred.

The laws on the possession of firearms were toughened after Michael Ryan killed 16 people in Hungerford before shooting himself. Ryan fired 119 shots in a one-hour rampage in 1987 with an M1 carbine, Kalashnikov rifle and Beretta pistol through the Berkshire town.

The Firearms Act 1988 has forced anyone seeking a licence for a firearm, other than a shotgun, to provide a good reason to the police for wanting a weapon. Certain guns, such as self-loading rifles and pump action rifles were banned. In 1994 the maximum sentence for the illegal possession of a firearm was increased from three to five years.

Despite these changes the police believe there has been a steady increase in the number of people willing to turn to guns for power and violence. Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, recently told the Home Affairs Select Committee, about his fears of an emerging gun culture among teenage gangs.

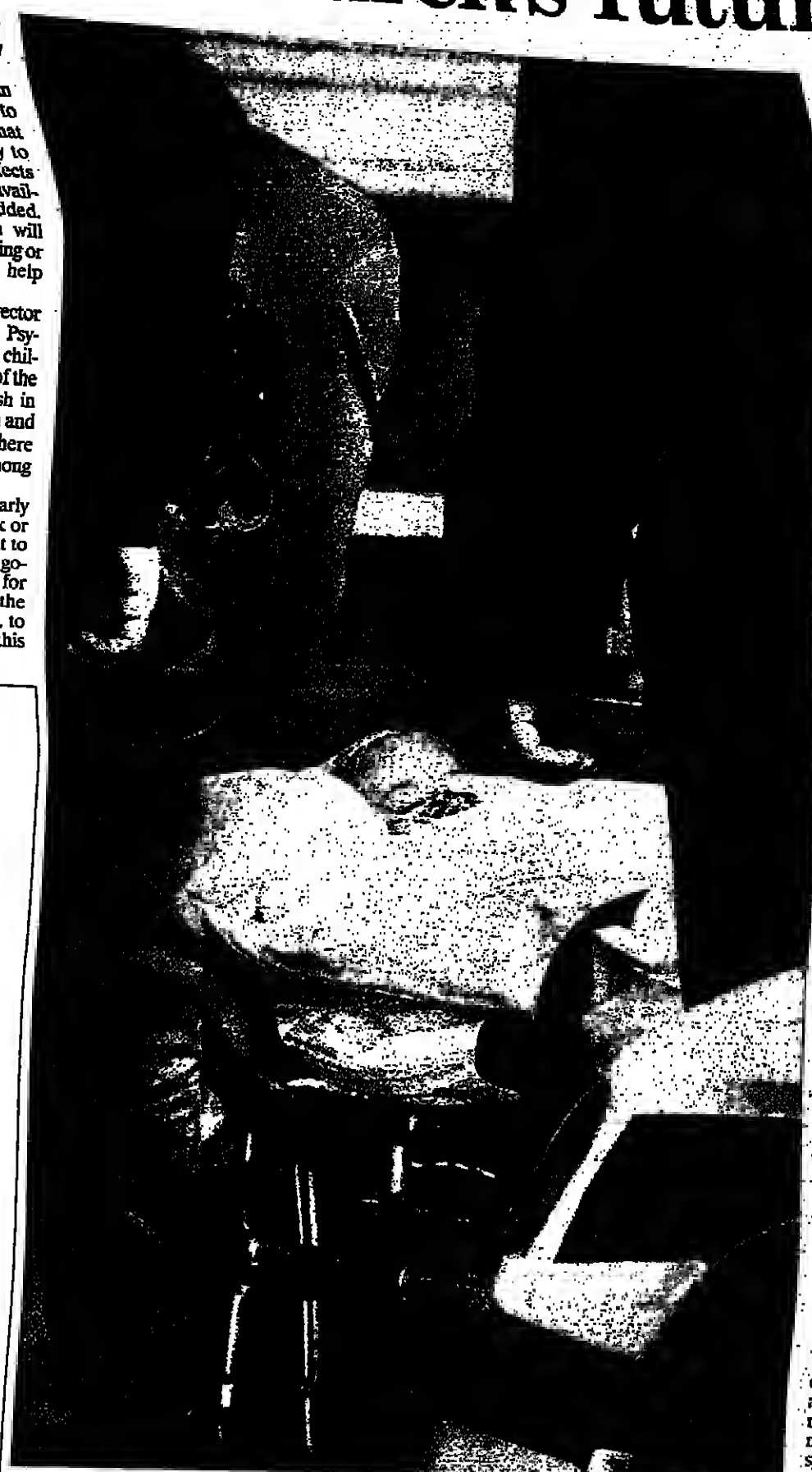
Many weapons are being brought in from Eastern Europe, with wars in places such as the former Yugoslavia providing a ready supply.

Police chiefs and the Home Office are considering a national guns amnesty to try to reduce the number of illegally held arms. In the last amnesty, after Hungerford, 48,000 firearms were surrendered.

The guns industry estimates there are 400,000 unlicensed handguns and 120,000 rifles. The police have estimated that there are up to 190,000 illegal pump-action shotguns.

A Home Office spokesman said: "Our gun laws are among the toughest in Europe, but we will consider any measures that can help further tackle the problem."

News Analysis, page 14



A young victim being taken into Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow. Photograph: John Gunnion

## 'You cannot make our schools a safe haven'

JUDITH JUDO  
Education Editor

No amount of security measures can protect schools against a determined gunman, heads and teachers said yesterday.

A government working party on school security set up after the death of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster, is expected to review arrangements to protect schools against intruders. Earlier this month the Government proposed new legislation to give police powers to search pupils for weapons on school premises.

Some schools have tightened security since an intruder knifed a pupil at Hall Garth School, Middlesbrough, two years ago. More schools are insisting that visitors sign in and passes and badges have been introduced.

At Hall Garth, the side door through which the killer entered has become exit-only and there is closed circuit television.

Some schools, especially those in inner cities, go further. The Archbishop Tenison school, in Lambeth, south London, has a 15ft barbed wire fence and only one open entrance: all the others are protected by electronic entry phones. Closed circuit television monitors the premises day and night. The measures cost £37,000. Brian Jones, the head, said they had proved effective but added: "If someone is hell bent on that sort of devastation, I don't think there is anything you can do."

Many schools outside cities, especially primary schools, have done little to fortify their design. Others by a wish to remain welcoming to the community.

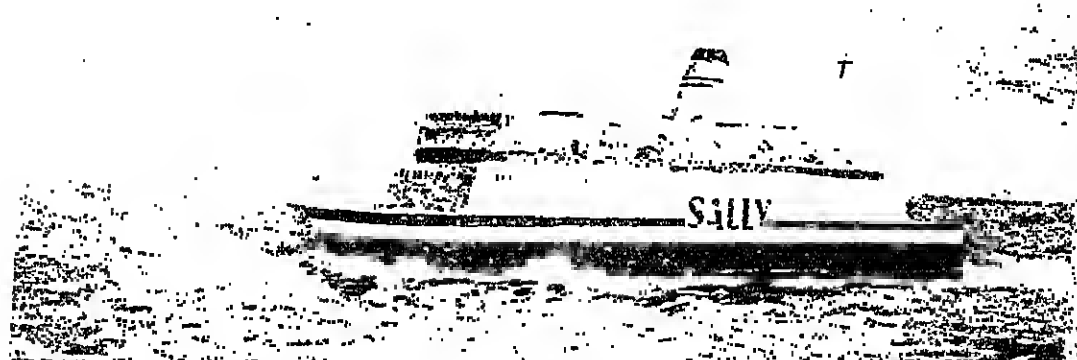
John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "Those who designed schools and colleges over the last 50 years did not foresee these possibilities. Some schools have been deliberately designed

not to be secure." He said a school in Coventry was designed so that the public could walk through it on their way through a shopping precinct.

Yet there is a growing recognition that schools will have to change. Mr Dunford's association has just produced a booklet which advises heads to examine a series of security measures: doors which open only from the inside, security cameras and a single entrance.

The two main teachers' unions differ over safety in schools. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, said: "Unless schools are seen to be tightening up maniacs will see schools as a soft target."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the incident should be kept in perspective. "We don't want to make schools fortresses," he said.



Self Portrait

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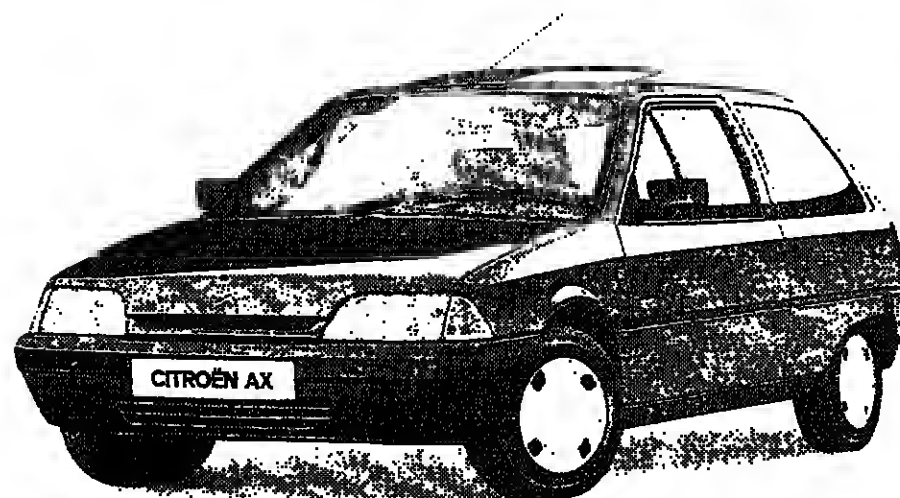
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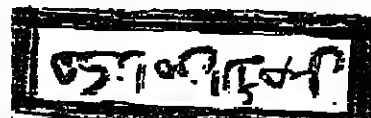
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## politics

# Mawhinney bid to stop rot over EU referendum

DONALD MACINTYRE  
Political Editor

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory chairman, explicitly promised for the first time that the Government would not hold a referendum on European issues wider than the single currency, in a clear effort to reduce the risks of a Cabinet split.

Amid speculation that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, might be prepared to quit the Cabinet if it votes for a single currency referendum, Dr Mawhinney moved to ease any suspicion that ministers were seeking to appease Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. He led a ministerial effort to ensure the looming Cabinet showdown on the referendum issue did not lead to Mr Clarke's resignation by making it clear that any referendum pledged by the Government would be limited to the circumstances of a Cabinet decision to enter a single currency.

This went some way to meeting one objection to a referendum promised being canvassed by some pro-European MPs

yesterday – that it could be the first stage of a “slippery slope” to other concessions to the Euro-sceptic right, including other referendums and possibly a commitment not to join a single currency in the next parliament. In terms which fell short of an explicit and formal denial that he could yet see the single currency referendum issue as a resigning matter, the Chancellor reacted to reports that he might resign by saying that he had spoken to no journalists – “nor had any friends.”

Some allies of Mr Clarke argued yesterday that the Chancellor was not isolated on the issue and that Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, agreed with his objections to promising a referendum, though it was far from clear how far he is prepared to push his opposition.

Meanwhile, the party chairman told Westminster reporters in a clear rebuttal to the demands of Sir James for a comprehensive referendum on Europe before or at the time of the general election that the Conservative Party would not

change its views on these matters as a result of the intervention of any fringe party.

He said the Maastricht Treaty, which Sir James wants to be an issue in the referendum he is seeking, had been ratified three years ago after a “full and intensive” debate.

He added: “There is no case for reopening the debates on Maastricht. It is a settled matter. There will be no referendum on it.”

He also ruled out any referendum on the conclusions of the forthcoming intergovernmental conference on the EU on the grounds Britain would oppose any significant constitutional change at the conference.

Instead, in a speech cleared in advance by senior ministers including Mr Clarke, he repeated that the Cabinet was “considering the circumstances in which a referendum might or might not be appropriate.”

Earlier Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, who also opposes a referendum commitment, said he was confident Mr Clarke would not resign on the issue.



Lighting-up time: Lord Mason and fellow members of the Lords and Commons Pipe and Cigar Smokers' Club mark National No Smoking Day. Photograph: Philip Meech

The Book of Riffkind, he argued, had failed to mention the real scourges – such as monetary union

## Purgatory of sect education on Europe



DAVID AARONOVITCH

The end of a millennium is a grand time for sects. With all of us feeling antsy about destiny, fate and God, groupies dedicated to warning of man's imminent doom and damnation pick up more support than usual. Most of the time such people are restricted to appearances at Speaker's Corner, arguing with militant Vegans about which will get us first – proteins or Beetzabub.

But yesterday was different. Courtesy of an early-morning slot at the Commons, Christopher Gill, Seismic member for Ludlow, introduced a motion designed to draw our attention to impending destruction. For 25 years, he chillingly pointed out, politicians had duped the public, while they carried out their hidden agenda: “The endgame, which many of us have long suspected, is nothing less than the United States of Europe!” The day of reckoning could not long now be delayed.

All around him there was assent. Anti-EU flagellants, childists and monks of various hues agreed. The Gormanites nodded vigorously; the ascetic, tanned Shepherd is My Lord group smiled wanly. John Wilkinson looked on with priestly, tolerant sadness.

ly gleaned wisdom with his despairing comrades. All of it. Whatever the subject.

To be fair, Mr McKinlay had a theme – Europe – but that was the extent of his coherence. Joined and abetted with phrases like “it needs to be made quite clear”, “what I want to say” and “if I might say so”, his contribution took us from Mrs Thatcher in Missouri (quoting Churchill's 1946 speech), praised Britain's “lovely Parliament”, covered air-traffic control, paused at the portfolios of EU Commissioners, discussed electoral systems and concluded, triumphantly, on the question of capping the number of languages that might be simultaneously translated in the European Parliament.

Then, with a satisfied smile suggesting that – whatever the reaction of other MPs – he had just received an internal standing ovation, he resumed his seat.

Alas for the sects, worse was to come. Their by now flagging enthusiasm was further diminished by a speech of studied tedium and pomposity delivered by former Paymaster General, Sir John Cope. Where Mr McKinlay shared uninteresting new information with the House, Sir John reminded it of boring things it already knew. Mitterrand had gone, he revealed. And Mr Chirac had taken over. Herr Kohl was still there, Sir John said, but Señor Gonzalez was not.

And nor, by the time he had finished, were most of the cult members. They had just had a true vision of Purgatory, and frankly, it hadn't been the fun that they'd expected.

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# Technology throws GCSEs into chaos

JUDITH JUDO  
Education Editor

GCSE technology courses are in chaos. Schools cannot afford to teach them or squeeze them into the timetable, headteachers said yesterday.

With many pupils about to choose their GCSE options, heads are warning that the introduction of compulsory technology from September will mean some pupils have to drop history and geography.

The National Association of Headteachers has written to Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, to say there are not enough qualified teachers, suitable rooms or equipment for the new requirements.

And a study to be published shortly by Alan Smithers, professor of policy research at Brunel University, shows the amount schools have to spend on technology varies from 40p per pupil per year to more

than £21. Peter Williams, head of Shavington High School, Crewe, said: "Next week I have two parents' evenings. I have never before been so uncertain about what to advise parents."

Technology has been in turmoil ever since the Government made it a national curriculum subject in 1988. There were five different versions of the technology curriculum before the current one was finally agreed.

It was introduced last year but some schools are still teaching

the original version. From this September all pupils will have to take either a short or full GCSE technology course and at least a short modern languages course.

Heads are worried that the curriculum will become narrower and less balanced. Mr Williams said: "There are two categories of despair. Those schools which cannot deliver technology because they do not have the resources and those which will not because they don't like the new short courses or they don't want technology to squeeze out other subjects."

"At this school we have decided to offer full courses in technology and modern languages. That means that, for the first time, some pupils will have to drop history and geography. A lot of parents are asking why their children have to do technology."

Some heads tried to introduce "shot" technology courses this year and found they took longer than the 5 per cent of the timetable allocated for them.

Pupils found them unfulfilling and are unlikely to be able to continue at A-level with a subject in which they have done a short course. Heads also fear employers will dismiss them.

Professor Smithers said his survey of 344 schools found the Government had targeted money for technology at its new technology schools but even some of these complained of a shortage of money. One grant-maintained school was having to rely on collecting items from industrial

skips for technology materials. But Dr Nick Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said shortage of resources had not stopped 450,000 pupils taking GCSE technology last year. He said: "I find it hard to imagine how a national curriculum for a highly developed industrialised society such as ours cannot include at least an element of continuing study of technology, an area which is shaping all our lives for better or worse."

## Cause of disco boy's illness 'baffles' police

The mystery of a schoolboy's serious illness, which started after a party, deepened yesterday as scientists were still unable to identify what caused it.

James Fountain, 16, has been a patient at St Luke's Psychiatric Hospital, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, since he was taken there in a "hallucinogenic, psychotic state" after an hotel disco more than five weeks ago.

Police working on the theory that his drink may have been spiked in revenge for his known anti-drugs campaigning said yesterday that tests of samples taken from him had found no trace of ecstasy, LSD, cocaine, heroin or amphetamines.

Detective Chief Inspector Barry Peart, who is leading the inquiry, said he was "baffled" by the results, but James, of Hartlepool, Cleveland, had possibly been given "some other rogue substance" as yet unidentified.

Investigators found that a variety of drugs, as well as alcohol, were widely available at the £6-a-head party attended by hundreds of independent-school pupils at Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgfield, Co Durham.

Detectives were told some youngsters had drunk a cocktail of left-overs from glasses and bottles left on tables which made some of them ill.

But there was no evidence that James, a pupil at Yarm School, had joined in, although he had apparently drunk three or four pints of lager.

Det Ch Insp Peart said many youngsters at the party had bought tablets. Some contained nothing more harmful than sugar, but others, of unknown origin, contained compounds such as rat poison or household scouring agents, and that was a particularly worrying feature of many drugs transactions.

He added: "James is still unwell in hospital and exactly how long he will remain there is not clear."

He said that one positive result of the inquiry was the "substantial amount of information officers had collected and collated about both the supply and the suppliers of drugs to schoolchildren. The response from the public had been 'very positive', he said.

Police were now following "a number of other lines of inquiry," he added.



Quick on the draw: Pavement artists in Covent Garden yesterday put the finishing touches to a giant map highlighting English Heritage sites. Work began at midnight and was erased at 10.30am after being used to publicise English Heritage's summer season of over 400 special events. Photograph: Edward Sykes

## Lawyer denies acting like 'pompous bully' in attack

REBECCA FOWLER

The solicitor who dragged a woman out of his office and on to the street denied yesterday in court that he was a "pompous hully" and said he treated her "like a kindly old policeman".

The incident in which the wife of a wealthy self-made property developer was thrown onto the street and then pinned to the floor when she returned for her fur coat, took place at Child and Child's offices in Belgravia, central London last April.

The row had developed after Allen Chubb, 52, a senior partner, told Laura Harold, 32, he refused to give her or her husband a copy of the deeds to their £1m home nearby in Chester Square, until a disputed bill for £3,500 was paid.

When Mrs Harold, 5ft 2in and 74 stone, refused to leave without the papers Mr Chubb, 6ft 3in

and 14½, dragged her through the reception area, accompanied by a female colleague. As he cast her on to the street he fell down the stone steps in the commotion. He accused Mrs Harold of then charging rugby-style back into the offices, and said he restrained her until she agreed to leave quietly.

Mr Chubb, who is accused of assault with actual bodily harm and false imprisonment in a private prosecution brought by Mrs Harold at the Inner London Crown Court, told the jury yesterday he was surprised to discover that Mrs Harold was bruised all over her body. "I was expecting her to have some bruising to her legs," he said. "The other marks on her body were a surprise to me... I thought I'd done a relatively good job in getting her out without hurting her."

The case, known as the "battle of Belgravia", continues. He said he had been surprised to discover that Mrs Harold was bruised all over her body. "I was expecting her to have some bruising to her legs," he said. "The other marks on her body were a surprise to me... I thought I'd done a relatively good job in getting her out without hurting her."

things like 'Come on Mrs Harold, out we go'. Really I would say I was talking to her like a kindly old policeman."

When Mr Chubb, a former special constable, was asked by Jonathan Goldberg QC, for the prosecution, whether he would have done the same to Mr Harold, he said he might have done. He denied he was "self-important", "officious", "pompous", and a "bully", who had taken out his annoyance on Mrs Harold.

He said he had been surprised to discover that Mrs Harold was bruised all over her body. "I was expecting her to have some bruising to her legs," he said. "The other marks on her body were a surprise to me... I thought I'd done a relatively good job in getting her out without hurting her."

## Burned worker wins £500,000

A steelworker who suffered horrific injuries in a works accident seven years ago has been awarded over £500,000. It was announced yesterday.

Peter Black, 46, a machine driver, was in hospital for 10 weeks after molten metal and slag splashed over him, burning his head, body and arms, at Scunthorpe steelworks in July 1989. He had to undergo 11 operations, including plastic surgery, but has been left permanently disfigured. He also has difficulty walking and will never work again.

The award of £512,000 against Appleby Slag Reduction Ltd and British Steel is believed to be a record for an industrial accident.

Mr Black, who is married with a 15-year-old daughter, said the money would never compensate him. "I used to be the life and soul of the party, but I'm

a different person now - short tempered, nervous and nasty." He said the past seven years had been a "nightmare". "The money is nice, but it can never make up for what has happened. It's not like winning the pools - I can't even jump up and down to celebrate."

Mr Black's case was taken up by the GMB general union. Regional secretary Steve Pickering said: "This was a horrific accident and Mr Black's life has been blighted. The court ruled that the employers were negligent in the way they managed the plant and that the accident, like most industrial accidents, could have been avoided."

The claim for compensation was originally taken to the High Court, but was delayed because the employers' side appealed. A spokesman for Appleby Slag Reduction Ltd said its involvement was "very minor".

## 'Wrong patients put in high care units'

LIZ HUNT  
Health Editor

Up to 50 per cent of patients in intensive care units do not need such a high level of care and could be treated on other wards to free urgently needed beds, senior doctors said yesterday.

They warned that the current shortage of beds meant that about 7 per cent of patients who need intensive care (IC) were being looked after on general wards, which could compromise their safety, while scores of operations were cancelled at the last minute as IC beds intended for post-operative patients were taken up by emergency admissions.

In addition up to 20 per cent of patients in acute surgical beds on general wards would do as well in "patient hotels", now being provided by small number of hospitals around the country.

The Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Anaesthetists are calling for a review of how patients are cared for after surgery, with the introduction of "graduated patient care" which, the colleges say, would save the NHS hundreds of thousands of pounds.

A joint working party which studied eight hospitals concluded that this model was the most cost-effective and efficient use of resources.

Graduated patient care identifies patients who need IC with at least one nurse for every patient; those who would benefit from care in high dependency units (HDUs), an intermediate level of care; and patients who are suitable for general surgical wards, and a convalescent or hotel unit for clinically stable patients able to look after themselves.

Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, last week gave his backing to an expansion of HDUs to alleviate the crisis in intensive care which has seen desperately ill patients shunted around hospitals. In 1995 the National Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths highlighted the lack of HDUs nationally.

David Crosby, a consultant surgeon and member of the Royal College of Surgeons' working party which reviewed care levels, said: "This is long-overdue. We have a situation in 1996 in which 85 per cent of large, acute, NHS hospitals have only two levels of post-operative care (IC and general) when there should be three."

The daily cost of an IC bed to the NHS is between £1,200-£1,500; an HDU bed £400-500; and a bed on a general surgical ward between £200-£250.

Report of the Joint Working Party on Graduated Patient Care, £5: RCS on 0171 973 2147.

### IN BRIEF

#### UK signs Europe army vehicle deal

Britain is to join a multi-million pound European project to build 2,000 new army vehicles. The development will create thousands of jobs in France, Germany and the UK and is set to last into the next century.

The vehicles will replace the existing Semtex vehicles widely used in Bosnia and the Gulf War. The announcement follows meetings last week with the French and German governments at which it was also decided Britain would join the European Armaments Agency. Britain has been contributing to the agency for several years and is now fully committed to join.

#### Murder case divorce

Eddie Browning, 42, who spent six years in jail after being wrongfully convicted of murder, is to divorce his wife Julie because of the mental stress caused by the case. The former Welsh Guardsman was freed two years ago after the Court of Appeal ruled that his conviction for murdering pregnant housewife Marie Wilkes on the M50 was unsafe and unsatisfactory.

#### £5m gallery bill

Britain's new £106m gallery of modern art could cost taxpayers up to £5 million a year. The proposed Tate Gallery of Modern Art on London's Bankside, which has already been given £50m of National Lottery cash, will cost £10m a year to run. Around £4.5 million will need to come from either the Government, private benefactors or commercial sponsors.

#### Rural revolution

Village shops, housing and small businesses will benefit from new government plans to support the rural economy of Wales. Welsh Secretary William Hague announced a £7.5m fund for low-cost home ownership and more rented accommodation. Village stores and post offices will enjoy a special rates relief scheme, and planning rules will be relaxed to maximise the use of land for new business.

#### Electricity chaos

Thousands of homes in Scotland were without power for a second day as engineers battled to repair damage left in the wake of fierce blizzards. Hydro-Electric said 4,500 customers were still cut off with problems mainly concentrated around southern Grampian and northern parts of Tayside. The snow brought traffic chaos with thousands of drivers forced to make detours to avoid worst-hit areas.

#### Where there's muck

A Welsh slag-heap is to be preserved as part of a heritage area. A High Court judge in London ruled that the Finger Tip - 500,000 tons of waste from the furnace of a now defunct ironworks near Merthyr Tydfil - was "an integral part of a site of worldwide significance in terms of industrial archaeology". The land's owner failed to overturn a compulsory purchase order.

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## news

Defence review: MoD denies job campaign is 'insensitive'

## RAF axes thousands as Army goes hiring

ROS WYNNE-JONES

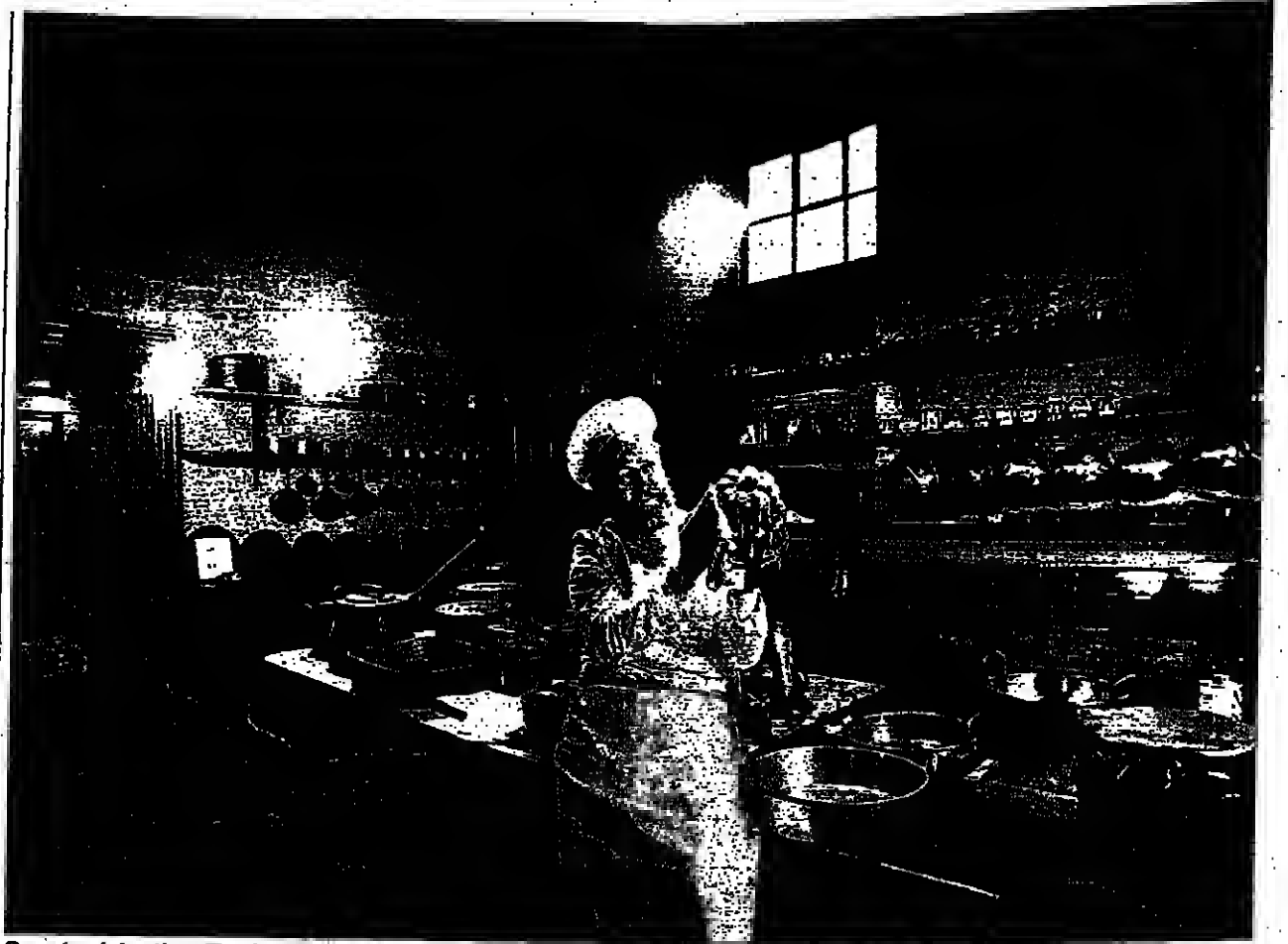
More than 5,500 RAF redundancies were announced yesterday in the biggest single cut in personnel since the end of the Second World War. But the move came as the Armed Forces Minister, Nicholas Soames, launched the Army's new recruitment campaign, designed to fill 15,000 vacancies.

The cuts are the first phase of a plan outlined in the Front Line First Review through which the Ministry of Defence aims to equip the RAF for "defence after the fall of the Berlin Wall". The review, in 1994, unveiled 8,600 losses as part of a programme to cut the size of the RAF from 89,000 in 1989 to 52,000 at the turn of the century.

The MoD denied the timing of yesterday's Army recruitment drive - in which a massive advertising campaign including thousands of billboards will seek personnel able "to combine combat readiness with compassion" - was insensitive. A spokesman said the RAF would be recruiting 3,200 people this year and by 1999 at least 5,000 per year, while the Army needed 15,000 recruits this year. "We need to continue recruiting to keep a balanced air force in the years ahead," he said. This meant that some men and women who had asked for voluntary redundancy had not been allowed to take it and that over 1,000 of the redundancies were not voluntary. Many jobs would be lost in engineering and catering due to

a long-term government policy of contracting out non-uniform jobs, the MoD said. "This could mean that an engineer might lose his job in the RAF but continue doing the same job for a private sector company," said a spokesman. Redundancy terms are relatively lucrative. An Air Vice-Marshal with 21 months left to serve would receive around £145,000 made up of pension payments, a terminal grant and a special "golden handshake". There is concern within the RAF about the impact of the cuts - which include more than 200 air-crew and around a dozen top officers of the rank of Air Commodore and above, on the morale and operational effectiveness of the air force, as well as on aircraft safety.

An MoD spokesman said: "We can't deny there won't be associated problems. These cuts are the largest we can remember and obviously that is going to have an effect on people. As in any job, people are concerned about employment prospects and stability." The spokesman added that there were still good reasons for joining the air force, including the "opportunity to receive excellent training, acquire a variety of skills and travel overseas". Mr Soames was yesterday officially opening the Royal Marines Barracks at Chivenor, Devon, the new home of the Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines and of 59 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers.



Sweet celebration: The food historian Peter Brears polishing a jelly mould in the kitchen at Harewood House near Leeds, which has been restored for visitors in time for a jelly festival in May. Photograph: Asadour Guzelian

## Mawhinney sees hope in boundaries

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
Political Correspondent

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, yesterday made the most optimistic forecast yet of the number of seats the Tories are set to gain from the redrawing of parliamentary boundaries.

Dr Mawhinney's insistence that the changes would deliver an extra 20 seats at the next election significantly outstrips predictions by leading electoral analysts.

The claim to a parliamentary press gallery lunch was ridiculed by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader.

The Tory party chairman also extolled the virtue of winning elections on a minority share of the vote, declaring: "Even in 1983 and 1987, when we won landslide victories, a good 58 per cent of those who voted supported other parties."

"So, while we want and will work for every vote that we can get, we do not need to win over everyone - or even most people - in order to win."

On the boundary changes, Dr Mawhinney said the Conservatives would have achieved an overall majority of 41 instead of 21 had they been in place at the 1992 election.

But Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher of Plymouth University put the figure at just 27 - a difference of six in the overall majority over all other parties. The psephologist

Robert Waller, author of the *The Almanac of British Politics*, put the figure at 32.

Mr Prescott said the party chairman's claims reached "new depths of self-delusion... To give the impression that the Conservatives can't lose the next election smacks of traditional Tory complacency and contempt for the electorate."

Dr Mawhinney said: "I am not arguing that Conservative support is at record levels or that a Government leading a country which has been through a tough recession and naturally disliked tax increases is wildly popular. What I am saying is that we are in a stronger underlying electoral position than some commentators assume."

Dr Mawhinney said the Conservatives had "thus far" kept quiet about the impact of the new boundaries, "but our own assessment is that the changes will be worth an extra 20 seats on our majority."

Mr Prescott challenged Dr Mawhinney to say why, if he believed the Tories could not lose, he went on the "chicken run", exchanging his current Peterborough seat for Cambridge North West.

"Of the new boundaries Mr Mawhinney is so pleased with, Peterborough is the Tories' 93rd most vulnerable seat. If the Tories lose Peterborough, as Mr Mawhinney expects, Labour will be forming the next Government with a comfortable working majority."

## Ministers set to extend laws on terrorism

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Howard is expected today to underline Britain's readiness to extend anti-terrorist legislation following the review called for yesterday by the Prime Minister at the Middle East peace conference in Egypt.

A Private Members' Bill which would allow those accused of "sex terrorism" crimes abroad to be prosecuted in this country is already going through the Commons, and ministers support the extension of the law to cover terrorism.

The Home Secretary will also rule out any lowering of the anti-terrorism guard in Britain unless a lasting peace is restored in Northern Ireland, when MPs renew the Prevention of Terrorism Act in the Commons.

Lord Lloyd, a High Court judge, was appointed in January to review the anti-terrorism legislation to see which parts of the law could be dropped in the light of the reduced threat from Ulster following the ceasefire.

However, Mr Howard will make it clear that the bomb in Docklands, east London, last month has set back the hopes of any significant reduction in such legislation, unless there is a lasting cessation of violence.

In his speech to the summit the Prime Minister said that Britain was already co-operating with both Israeli and Palestinian authorities on counter-terrorism

and was urgently looking at what further practical help Britain might offer.

He called for a follow-up meeting to look at those who actively conspired to commit terrorist acts and those who abused the hospitality and protection available in some countries to create a "climate in which terrorism could flourish."

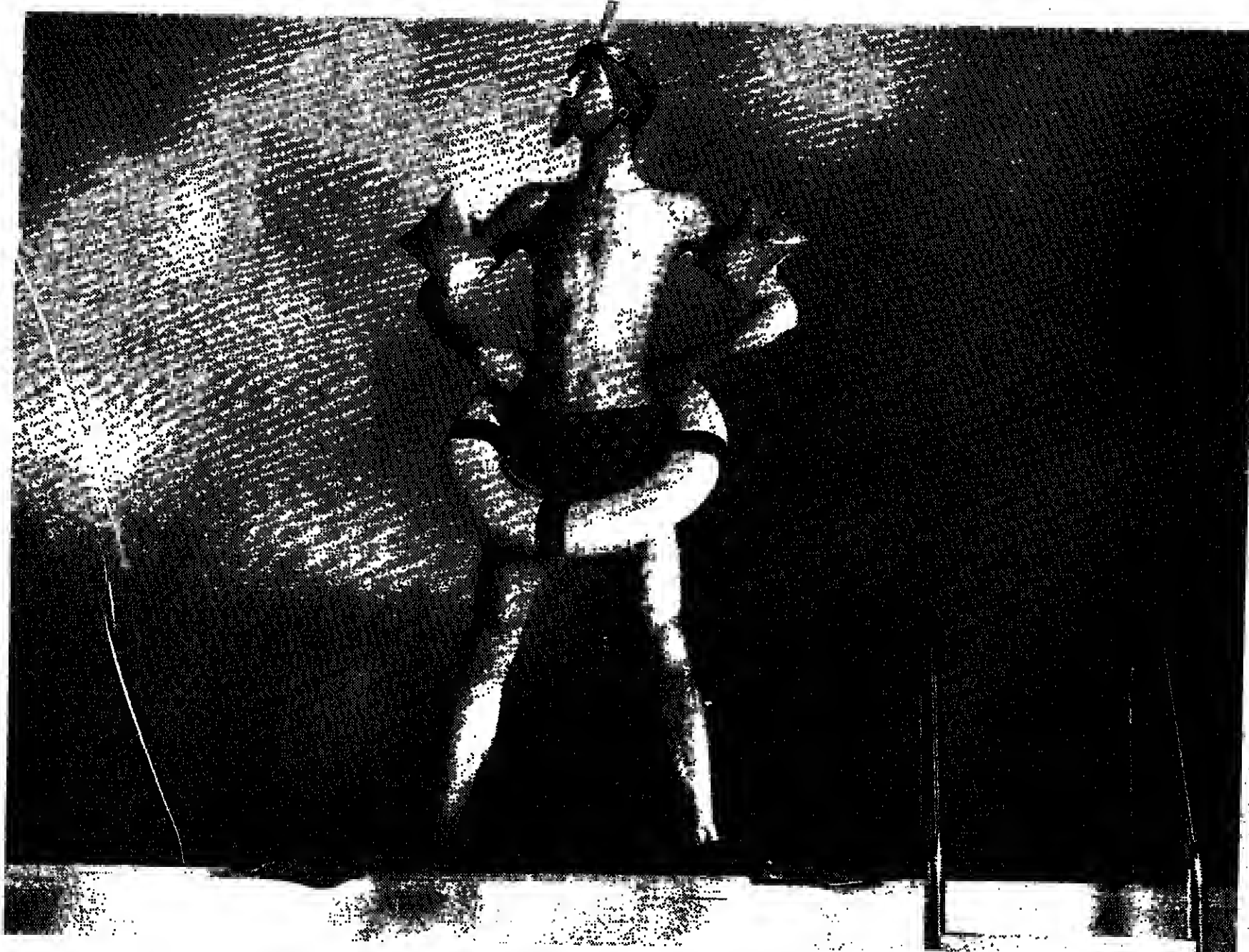
Meanwhile, the Government appeared ready to give in to demands by the Ulster Unionists, led by David Trimble, for the next stage in the peace process.

The Ulster Unionists, whose votes in the Commons could be crucial to Mr Major's hopes of avoiding a general election until May 1997, have insisted that the elections in Northern Ireland to appoint negotiating teams should be held in the 18 parliamentary constituencies.

Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and the nationalist SDLP led by John Hume feared that basing the elections on 18 constituencies would hand a majority to the Ulster Unionists and united in calling for the elections to be based on a single constituency for the whole of Northern Ireland.

Ministers failed to reach agreement with the parties by the end of the consultation period yesterday. Sir Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is expected to announce the Government's conclusions early next week, broadly accepting Mr Trimble's case.

## Lifesavers wanted.



(Ability to swim a bonus.)

Even if your idea of swimming is that annual dip in the hotel pool, you can join over 50,000 other swimmers taking part in the 1996 BT Swimathon. From 18th-24th March at over 500 pools nationwide, we'll be raising

money for Childline, Britain's only 24 hour helpline for children in trouble or danger, as well as five charities promoting sport for the disabled. This is the BT Swimathon's 10th anniversary, and for the

first time we've introduced a special Happy Hour session for less experienced swimmers, as well as the traditional five thousand metre swim. To take part or simply make a donation, please call now on LoCall 0345 881 199.





## Serb mayor tries to stem exodus

EMMA DALY  
Ildiza

An impassioned appeal for Ildiza's beloved brotherhood and unity is not, but at least one Bosnian Serb politician is trying to reach an understanding with his former enemies in Sarajevo.

Maksim Stanisic, mayor of the Serb-held districts of the capital during the war, is working against the odds to persuade his neighbours to stay in the five Sarajevo suburbs reverting to Bosnian government rule. His new group, the Democratic Initiative of Sarajevo Serbs, hindered at every turn by the Bosnian Serb leadership in Pale, has made little headway so far—some 40,000 people are estimated to have fled, against about 10,000 still in the area. But as the last hope of the international community—the "last straw"—one observer said—Mr Stanisic is nurtured by foreign officials desperate for any sign of support for the peace process and the reunification of Bosnia. Mr Stanisic's decision to stay in Ildiza, which this week reverted to government control, required courage—perhaps allied to a sense that as a Serb in a united Sarajevo he might build a political base with more power than numbers alone would warrant.

Yesterday, he looked drawn

and nervous, chain-smoking and fiddling with his notebook or a hanger, but remained resolute. "We must try to carry on the work of the organisation. We must help everyone who has had a bad experience and has now decided to leave, but at the same time we will help anyone who wants to stay," he said.

The Democratic Initiative was founded last month at a meeting in Ildiza attended by around 300 people—quite a number, given that many Serbs regard those who want to stay as traitors. Aside from the genuine fears of reprisal by those the Serbs besieged for so long, stirred to fever pitch by the leadership in Pale, anyone who considers staying on in the five suburbs faces serious practical problems: those departing have cut off utilities, and stripped factories and houses.

Mr Stanisic has said there is nothing he can do to prevent such asset-stripping in Ildiza, though he is trying to ensure that at least one clinic is staffed throughout the transition.

"People are afraid, and we are working in impossible conditions," Mr Stanisic said. Did we know the cartoon "Stop the world, I want to get off"? "I feel a little bit like that..."

Mr Stanisic, a lawyer who worked before the war as the deputy administrator for Sara-

jevo, is a politician but not, he says, a member of the Serb Democratic Party, the nationalists led by Radovan Karadzic into war. International officials who worked with him throughout the war in his capacity as mayor of Serb-held parts of Sarajevo view him as a moderate—at least in relation to Mr Karadzic and his colleagues in Pale.

Mr Stanisic says he has received a positive response from the Bosnian government, but wants more in the way of guarantees that angry refugees will not be allowed to storm into the suburbs and harass Serbs there.

As Ildiza reverts to government rule, does he envisage a life shared with Muslims? He has said that children should be bused to Serb schools in Lukavica, which remains under Pale's control, but what about mixed communities, shops, bus services and so on? Mr Stanisic looks uncomfortable. "I'm just saying that the Serb people here have an interest in staying here, and whether they live with or next to Muslims is not important," he said.

So if Serbs and Muslims could live together in some form, what was the point of the war? He laughed, put his head in his hands, then dodged the question in best Balkan style: "For the answer to that we must go back in time..."



Coming home: Bosnian refugees return to Ildiza, a Sarajevo suburb where Maksim Stanisic is trying to persuade Serbs to stay. Photograph: Reuters

### IN BRIEF

#### Habsburg row shakes Austria

**Vienna**—The secret homecoming of Austria's exiled heir to the throne unleashed a government row between social democrats and conservatives in the new coalition cabinet. Felix Habsburg-Lothringen, the 79-year-old son of Austria's last emperor who was banished with his family in 1919, secretly crossed the border at the weekend and taunted the government by holding a news conference on Monday.

Authorities left the businessman alone, arguing he posed no threat to Austrian stability. But they warned him he would be prosecuted if he ever tried to sneak in again. The deputy leader of Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's Social Democrat party said: "We have no understanding for anyone who obviously still believes in the divine right of kings... and hence does not fully acknowledge the legitimacy of the republic." *Reuters*

#### Chechen conflict 'led by mafia'

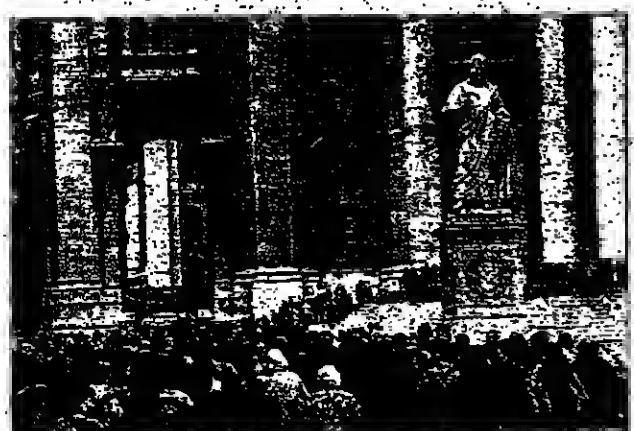
**Moscow**—As the latest fighting died down in Chechnya, the Russian presidential hopeful General Alexander Lebed charged that the conflict was a mafia-led conspiracy. General Lebed, a critic of Moscow's 15-month campaign to crush the separatist rebels, said: "Chechnya is the place where the mafia are squaring their accounts on a state level." *Reuters*

#### Latvian mass killer dies in prison

**Riga**—The former Soviet security chief in the Baltic state of Latvia, sentenced to life imprisonment at the age of 87 for helping organise mass deportations, has died in prison. Alfons Noviks was head of the NKVD Soviet security police in Latvia from 1940 to 1953, when thousands were jailed, deported and killed as Moscow purged anyone it suspected of opposition after its annexation of the state. Noviks, a Latvian, was convicted of genocide. *Reuters*

#### US Marines appeal sentence for rape

**Tokyo**—Two of the three US servicemen jailed last week for gang raping an Okinawan schoolgirl last September appealed against their sentences. Marine Private Rodrick Harp, 21, and Marine Private Kendrick Ledet, 20, were sentenced to seven years and six and a half years respectively. *Reuters*



A queue forms outside St Peter's, Rome, yesterday after illness caused the Pope to cancel his audience. Photograph: AP

#### Norway gives go ahead to seal hunting

**Oslo**—Norway's commercial seal hunt, including pups for the first time in seven years, will begin as planned next week. Two weeks ago, the seal hunters cancelled the hunt, claiming reductions in government subsidies would make it unprofitable. *AP*

#### We are not alone, says Nasa

**Toledo**—Scientists believe they could discover life outside the solar system within the next 25 years. "Yes, definitely, there's life out there," Mike Kaplan, director of US space agency Nasa's Origins programme, said during a meeting of astronomers in Toledo. "I don't think we're alone," he said. *Reuters*

#### Kaunda barred from election

**Lusaka**—President Frederick Chiluba hacked controversial amendments to the constitution that would bar former President Kenneth Kaunda from running against him this year. Mr Chiluba said the amendments, which require a presidential candidate to be born of Zambian parents, were drafted before Mr Kaunda decided last year to run for president. Mr Kaunda, 71, the son of immigrants from neighbouring Malawi, is classified a first-generation Zambian. *AP*

#### Netherlands wins support for drugs policy

**The Hague**—The Netherlands has won a rare show of support from another country for its controversial drugs policy. A letter, signed by Health Minister Margarethe Nussch of the German state of Hesse and made public yesterday, praised the liberal Dutch drugs policy and urged the Netherlands to resist foreign pressure to adopt a harder line. *Reuters*

#### Company of women proves too much

**Sydney**—A man who spent 15 months in Antarctica "away from the company of women" couldn't wait another three days until he was reunited with his wife in China. On Monday, during a stopover in Sydney, the 39-year-old Chinese maintenance technician embraced and kissed the cheek of a maid who was cleaning his hotel room, and grabbed her breast. Shuang Li pleaded guilty to indecently assaulting the woman and was fined £200. *AP*

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to extend law  
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## international

## Taiwan flirts with independence

**War of words:**  
China's warning  
shots bring  
breakaway to  
fore in election  
countdown

TERESA POOLE  
Taipei

In 1964, a brilliant Taiwanese legal scholar and his students produced a *Manifesto to Save Taiwan*. At the time, it was heresy. It called for an affirmation that Taiwan's return to the mainland was "absolutely impossible", a new constitution to guarantee democracy, and a seat at the United Nations as a new sovereign state.

The law professor in question, Peng Ming-min, was arrested, jailed for 14 months, placed under house arrest for life but managed to escape to Europe. It was not until November 1992, after 23 years in exile, mostly in the US, that Dr Peng was able to return to Taiwan. Now he is one of four candidates in Taiwan's first democratic presidential elections on 23 March.

Thus has Taiwan's political landscape changed. It is less than nine years since martial law was lifted, and only four years since anyone advocating independence was committing a crime.

But, thanks to Peking's present belligerent notion of safeguarding Chinese sovereignty, the question of independence has become the defining issue of the elections.

Yesterday, as the news spread of China's fourth missile test firing into the sea near Taiwan and more naval and aircraft manoeuvres, Dr Peng spelled out his vision of an independent Taiwan in which the island would formally abandon the "One China" policy. "I say Taiwan has not been, and should not be a part of China, and so-called reunification should not be a national goal," he said.

"I am not one to change our status. Taiwan has been a sovereign nation since 1949. So I just point out this fact to China, to the world. This is the reality," he said. Peking's present military manoeuvres were nothing less than "terrorism" and "barbarism", he added.

Dr Peng is the only candidate explicitly espousing independence, and even he says Tai-



Colour clash: Marines in China's People's Liberation Army on recent manoeuvres on the mainland. The Chinese continued their war games off the coast of Taiwan yesterday with a fourth day of missile launches and naval and air exercises

wan's existing "de facto" independence would only be accompanied by a declaration of "de jure" independence in the case of an invasion by China.

Such distinctions are of no interest to Peking, which describes Dr Peng as an "agent" of President Lee Teng-hui, the man expected to win next week's election. Dr Peng's campaign, thunders Peking, is just an "escort" to take Mr Lee into office.

Mr Lee, as the candidate of the ruling Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) party, has been at pains to point out that Peking has misconstrued his position. Reunification remained the "ultimate goal", he said, but not

while a communist government remains in power in Peking. In the meantime, Mr Lee intends to raise further Taiwan's international political recognition. A UN seat for Taiwan has been a campaign of the president's for the past two years.

From Peking's point of view, Mr Lee's platform amounts to a "de facto" bid for independence. Its demonstration of him outdoes the abuse which was thrown at Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist leader who retreated to Taiwan at the time of the Communist victory in 1949.

Both Mao Tse-tung and Chiang Kai-shek subscribed to the ideal of One China; they just

disagreed on who should run it. Indeed, when Mr Chiang died in 1975, the mainland expressed "deep condolences" and applauded him for opposing the independence of Taiwan. Mr Lee and Dr Peng represent something much worse.

Vote tactics may be crucial in determining Mr Lee's final share of the vote. He has said he wants a mandate of 50 per cent, a difficult threshold to meet.

However, many analysts believe supporters of Dr Peng, who has little hope of winning, may vote for Mr Lee to give him a healthier margin over the third candidate, Lin Yang-kang.

Mr Lin is a former stalwart of the KMT who was expelled from the party last year. His position is firmly to back a policy of reunification with China, but to leave it rather vague as to when he believes this might be able to take place, and to avoid issues such as UN membership.

In mounting its aggressive military intimidation campaign, it is presumably Mr Lin's share of the vote that Peking is seeking to increase. The fourth candidate, Chen Li-an, who manages to combine being a devout Buddhist and a former defence minister, has not focused on the One China question.

Vote preferences are hard to determine. A big majority probably agrees with Dr Peng's view that de facto independence has become "a historical reality". As Dr Peng added: "Taiwan has undergone a different history. And Taiwanese society and Chinese society are quite different... our culture, our mentality, our way of life. These are the facts."

But for voters it is a choice of how big a gamble should Taiwan take about Peking's tolerance. In a view much heard in Taipei, one 35-year-old clerk said: "One Taiwan, One China is the best situation. But President Lee is moving too fast."

## N Koreans flee 'in hundreds'

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Seoul

As many as 700 people have escaped from North Korea and are attempting to defect to the South, according to the South Korean President Kim Young-sam. Western diplomats say that the prospect of a mass exodus from the ailing Stalinist state is causing anxiety in Seoul.

Since devastating floods last summer which destroyed farmland and washed away homes in North Korea, the annual trickle of a dozen or so defectors has turned into a steady stream, adding to speculation that the secretive republic may be approaching internal collapse. But Mr Kim's speech, to a group of elderly Koreans born in the North before the peninsula was divided by the 1950 Korean War, is the first time that the Seoul government has publicly named the number of potential refugees.

"The government is accepting North Koreans on a selective basis," Mr Kim said. "But we are experiencing a lot of difficulties."

Seoul maintains a resettlement programme for defectors who are regularly presented in the media with lurid stories of North Korean oppression and atrocities.

Over the New Year, a diplomat in the North Korean embassy in Zambia defected with his wife, and in February, a former wife of the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, was revealed to have fled her home in Moscow for asylum in Europe. But most of the refugees are poor workers in North Korean logging camps, and traders who have crossed the mountainous northern border into China and Russia. A report in the *Korea Herald* this week quoted unnamed Seoul officials as saying that the total number of refugees from North Korea is between 1,200 and 1,500.

"There's a worry that they may be swamped," a Western diplomat said yesterday. "The first fear is that subversives could slip in pretending to be defectors, and they're also concerned about upsetting the social balance."

## Afrikaner parents step up school battle

ROBERT BLOCK  
Johannesburg

Conservative white parents in South Africa's Northern Province may have lost a battle for control over who is admitted to Potgietersrus primary school, but their fight against the integration of their offspring with black children goes on.

Yesterday morning, the parents of about 150 Afrikaner students scuffled with police who prevented them entering a hostel where they had set up an alternative classroom.

The parents' occupation of the hostel, earlier this week, was their latest move to obtain a separate state education for their children following a court ruling last month that the school's attempt to exclude children of other races was illegal.

The parents had taken over the building across the street from the school despite threats from the provincial government that it would fight any play it interpreted as racist or segregationist.

Until last week, the children had been taught by volunteers at a local church. But the church did not have the facilities to handle 150 pupils, so the parents moved them back to the school premises for a final showdown.

In response, Ngako Ramathodi, the governor of the Northern Province, yesterday took over control of the school and informed the governing body of his intention to dissolve it. He ordered police to close down the hostel-school by preventing anyone entering. A spokesman for the province said: "Instruction in Afrikaans continues at the school like it always has, taking the children out of the main building and placing them in the hostel to prevent them from mixing with black children is nothing but racism."

The parents claim they are trying to guarantee their children a proper education in their native language. But the fact remains that they are in the minority. About 400 white children continue to attend classes.

## Things go badly for Coke as rock fans run riot

Buenos Aires (AP) - After a promotional offer went wrong, dozens of youths rampaged through a pedestrian shopping mall in Buenos Aires yesterday when they failed to get tickets to a concert by US punk-rock band the Ramones.

More than 1,000 fans had queued overnight outside the offices of the Coca-Cola com-

pany to exchange 10 bottle tops for a concert ticket as part of a promotion. When company representatives told them no tickets were available, fans smashed shop windows, looted a newsstand and threw rubble from a nearby building site at the Coca-Cola offices.

Company officials were not immediately available for comment. Local news agencies said several people were injured when hit by stones during the disturbances, which continued for more than an hour. No arrests were made. The violence ended shortly after noon, when police arrived.

Shortly afterwards, police said tickets for the three concerts to be held from 24 to 26 March would be made available later in the day at another site.

The Ramones, known for their hard-rocking repetitive punk style, recorded such hits as "Rockaway Beach", "Sheena is a punk rocker" and "Blitzkrieg Bop" in the 1970s and early 1980s but have faded from the forefront of the pop scene since then.

March would be made available later in the day at another site. The Ramones, known for their hard-rocking repetitive punk style, recorded such hits as "Rockaway Beach", "Sheena is a punk rocker" and "Blitzkrieg Bop" in the 1970s and early 1980s but have faded from the forefront of the pop scene since then.

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# THE INDEPENDENT

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## Dunblane's grief beyond words

Words, when Dunblane asks for silence, space to mourn, to rage, to try to understand the incomprehensible.

We assemble facts, names, lists, numbers. We look for character traits, analogies, consequences. But how much of that will enable us to solve the same impossible puzzle that assails the nation: they were children, five- and six-year-olds, in a gym class, doing what five- and six-year-olds do, laughing, playing, moaning, shouting, hoping, dreaming. Children in a gym class. How could it be? How could anyone, in however twisted a mind, turn children into creatures to be killed?

At times like this the modern world is so unfathomable. A deranged man kills children in a violent slaughter. Yet there is no calculus we can use to tell us whether or how our age is, in some grand moral scheme, any better or worse than previous ages. What is sure is that, unlike those times, these days we know instantly almost as much as the people of Dunblane

know about what happened to their children in that gym class.

As a result, Dunblane belongs to us all, at once, wherever we are. We share the shock and disbelief. We share the jumble of feelings of sadness, impotence, outrage. If you are a parent, any parent in the land this morning, it will have been almost too painful to watch the scenes at Dunblane yesterday. Today you will feel a wave of relief that your child was not in that gym, did not see that man, was not robbed of life, forced to succumb to that death.

There will be questions. Can school security be improved? Should firearms owners be psychologically profiled? Are gun laws strict enough? But they can wait. Dunblane this morning must feel like the worst place on earth. We can only offer its people sympathy and space, to come to terms with their terrible loss and abiding grief. And the other thing we can do is quietly to rejoice in our children and resolve to protect and nurture them.

## Stand and fight, Ken

Man of the people Kenneth Clarke doesn't, it seems, trust the people. The Tory politician who has made his name in the Stanley Baldwin mould - Midlands man, downing pints - who has put one of the most attractive faces on post-Thatcher Conservatism - may have come a cropper. If his "friends" are to be trusted (and the bane of many a politician's life are the Doppelgänger who go on *Newsnight* and ventriloquise for them), Mr Clarke thinks a referendum on European monetary union is a resigning issue. It isn't. Too much hinges on the timing, the kind of question to be put and the electoral dynamics. The Chancellor's cabinet colleagues will surely reflect maturely before taking the unprecedented step of reaching out to the people, providing them with information and arguments and inviting their direct participation in their own government.

That would be a Tory revolution indeed. If they took that step, we hope Kenneth Clarke would be out there on the crease, not skulking behind the sight screens. His start to feel like the politics of petulance. If this is the best the pro-European and ostensibly pragmatic wing of the Tory party can do as the stakes for the

party's future direction and Britain's future in Europe are raised, then it is a poor show.

Tory commentators have reacted to the Government's White Paper preparatory to the Inter-Governmental Conference with striking agreement and optimism. We are all Euro-sceptics now, they said, arguing there was enough in the document to keep the party together for a while longer. Kenneth Clarke himself has previously said all bets were off till that midnight hour in 1999 when existing obligations require a decision on joining a single currency.

By that stage, with Sir James Goldsmith still marauding about, we might well be wondering whether the unity of the Conservative Party was, any longer, in the national interest. It may be that too clearly pro- and anti-European parties would be more honest and open. Indeed, a referendum might yet be the mechanism through which that split occurs. But Mr Clarke, as the main standard-bearer of the Tory left in Britain - let's not forget Chris Patten prowling around his Hong Kong cage - needs to be in that debate passionately as a member of the Government, not petulantly on the sidelines.

## Brain-drain Britain

Finding a cure for Alzheimer's ranks up there with Aids cures, cancer cures and world peace. Anyone who has seen a relative lose their memory and their personality to the disease, or merely followed the decline of Felix on the BBC's *Our Friends in the North*, should toast to a group of scientists at the Roskamp laboratories in Tampa, Florida. They have made a significant new discovery about the mechanics of the disease, bringing them closer to finding a cure.

But it is not an American discovery. Five years ago, a team at St Mary's Hospital in London established a genetic component in Alzheimer's disease. When British universities and hospitals couldn't stump up enough cash and facilities to fund intensive research, many of the scientists were seduced abroad - among them Professor Michael Mullan, who joined the Roskamp group. So there we were, the Brits, at the forefront of medical research. Sadly, we didn't have the cash and the commitment to see it through.

Higher salaries, more status, better

research facilities and closer links with industry abroad have long been cited as the causes of the notorious brain-drain of scientists from British universities. Many US universities, for example, draw heavily on sponsorship from commercial companies. In Britain, disdain for science among businesses combined with suspicion of commerce among academics have inhibited productive partnerships for too long.

The pressure for change is growing. Universities across the country are becoming ever more imaginative - and desperate - in their search for cash. Leading computer companies say research technology in universities is usually so outdated that they need to retrain graduate researchers anyway. The best international companies now realise the importance of vibrant research cultures that could match anything on offer in a university. Research partnerships between companies and universities will be vital if Britain is not to lose more Professor Mullans and find its way back to the frontier of research.

## The story of your life? Get it in writing

Anyone who is thinking of getting this or her life story down on paper and doesn't know how to start should invest immediately in an invaluable booklet called *How to Write Your Autobiography*, published by the Inland Revenue. This neat little volume is packed full of hints on how to marshal the facts of your life, and even more important, how to organise your life before you get round to writing the book.

"Never throw anything away" seems to be the golden rule of the art of autobiography, if the Inland Revenue can be believed. "You will be amazed at how much the merest scrap of paper can reveal," it says. "Let us say, for instance, that you have a faded receipt for petrol from some motorway service area. Your instinct is to chuck it in the bin. But wait a minute! That petrol receipt will tell you exactly where you were at what time, on what day. It will tell you that you were not at home but were out on a long trip somewhere. With luck, you can reconstruct the story of one whole day from one receipt!"

"We at the Inland Revenue often have to do the same. For instance, someone might claim petrol bills against tax. If we looked closely at them, we might find that five or 10 of them have the same date on them,



MILES KINGSTON

and the same garage name. Odd, that. Why has someone got 10 receipts for petrol from the same place? Could it be because he has been driving up and down that road, constantly running out of petrol at the same place? Or could it be because he's picked up lots of other people's receipts at that garage and tried, no doubt in error, to pass them off as his own?"

"A thing like that tells you a lot about a person. And to take care of telling details, and to make sure they are not lost, we cannot stress too highly the importance to the future autobiographer of keeping all documentation. In a big cardboard box. In files. In desk drawers. Anywhere, as long as you keep them and, of course, don't try to alter the figures on them."

The booklet also stresses the importance of keeping a record of

people you meet and work with. "How often do you hear absolutely fascinating stories from people you employ round the house, plumbers, stonemasons, builders and so on? You could make a whole book out of those stories. In fact, some people have - think of *A Year in Provence*, for example! But wouldn't it be tragic if you tried to remember the name of the man who had told you such a great story, and you couldn't simply because you'd forgotten to write it down. So, make it the simple golden rule to always get a written receipt from every person you employ, with all the details - even if he would like to be paid in cash! In fact, especially if you paid him in cash..."

The Inland Revenue also stresses the importance of the little personal touch in the art of autobiography. "So much can be revealed in these little incidents," says the booklet. "Let's say, for instance, that you get a taxi to Paddington and ask the taxi driver for a receipt to cover the journey, which cost £5. Now, what if the taxi driver says, with a wink, 'How much shall I make it for, guv? Or if he gives you a whole handful of blank receipts and makes it clear you can fill them all in at your leisure? What would your reaction to that be? The answer can be very

revealing - so write it all down!" The booklet ranges over the whole of life and its important aspects - travel, family life, work, entertainment, etc - and is especially good on activities done under an assumed name. It covers the momentous moments of life ("Ever done a big, big transaction in cash? Let's hear about it!") but is not ashamed to encourage gossip about the small things ("Ever heard some discreditable but fascinating things about famous people? Let's have all the details - you can't shock people nowadays!"). But the four big lessons in autobiography are spelt out again at the end, in case you haven't got the message:

1. Get everything in writing.
2. Don't throw away or hide anything.
3. Don't get any help with your autobiography from some smart-arsed accountant who might encourage you to store some of your life's details overseas.
4. Get everything right in your life story, because if you don't, you might go to prison for a very long time.

*'How to Write Your Autobiography'*, published by the Inland Revenue, price £15.99 (or from me for only a tanner).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'Feelgood' factor is not good for the economy

Sir: The "feelgood factor" results from not having to worry about money ("Where's the feelgood factor?", 9 March). Not having to worry about money results from excessive wage increases, and leads to a lack of concern about prices. This in turn allows prices to rise beyond what is absolutely necessary as a result of increasing costs. This leads to excessive inflation, which quickly eliminates the short-lived feelgood factor.

The Germans have never known or understood the so-called "feelgood factor", in spite of having built one of the most successful post-war economies. Even when their economy was growing rapidly, inflation never took off because the German people will never allow suppliers to increase prices unnecessarily. Our country has suffered in the

past because there have been periods when we have been unconcerned about prices. The last three years or so have seen unprecedented price stability in this country, accompanied by low wage increases. Nobody feels good about this because we still have to worry about how much we are spending. But if we ever stop worrying about this, and the feelgood factor returns, we should be clear that inflation, high interest rates and recession are only just around the corner.

We are having to make an important psychological step forward, which is to accept that a successful economy is built on hard work and increased productivity, rather than the artificial money-stimulated booms of the past. Politicians will never admit it, but, while getting people to "feelgood" may be a political

aim, it is the last possible goal of a serious wealth-creating economic policy.

DAVID MERCER  
Bedford

Sir: I am not so naive that I believe policies win elections, but this government seems determined to rely on the elusive "feelgood factor" which Kenneth Clarke appears to force upon us at every opportunity.

I have news for Mr Clarke and his friends: you don't feel good without a job, when a hospital turns you away because there's no bed, when your children struggle to get a decent education, or when you see Parliament abused by its own elected members. Too many people feel bad for the rest of us to feel good.

Dr C C BRAMMER  
Lymn, Cheshire

### It is time for a referendum

Sir: My thanks to Andrew Reid (Letters, 12 March) who clearly took the time to read Sir James's letter to the candidates and supporters of the Referendum Party in Monday's newspaper. As president of the Young Conservative Group for Europe, Mr Reid must firmly believe that the British people's interests are best served by the Maastricht treaty and the creation of a federal Europe. Why then is he so opposed to a referendum?

It brings us back to the same old argument that those in favour of Maastricht are against the idea of a full debate on the subject leading to a vote by the people. They constantly refer to the Referendum Party as anti-European. That is incorrect. Neither are all the 400 selected parliamentary candidates anti-European nor all the 45,000-strong

registered supporters of the Referendum Party. They are, however, all 100 per cent of the belief that the potential loss of our national sovereignty is a decision to be taken by the people.

As for Mr Reid's suggestion that we want a referendum "allowing the public a retrospective vote on the Maastricht treaty", it served the government to do it in 1975, when, and here I repeat a quote that Sir James used in his letter, there was "no question of any erosion of essential national sovereignty".

So now, when there is clearly a huge amount to lose and a decision to be made that will affect generations to come, is it not time to let the people decide?

SEBASTIAN C SAINSBURY  
Parliamentary Candidate for  
The Referendum Party  
London SW7

### Look to the Probation Service when dealing with crime

Sir: Important as constitutional issues are, your editorial ("The wrong way to fight crime", 8 March) was right to suggest that the current dispute between the Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice is largely irrelevant to the reduction of crime. It is, however, wrong to speak of "over-hasty reforms" in the early Nineties that made sentencing more lenient. Compared with all the vote-catching initiatives that have superseded it, the Criminal Justice Act 1991 was a carefully thought-out and coherent strategy which complemented the Woolf report's vision of a more humane and effective penal system.

In truth, however, the 1991 framework was given only a few months to work before key parts of it were removed, and the scene set for Michael Howard's lamentable "prison works" strategy. One consequence of this is a penal system yet again on the edge of collapse.

Since the demise of the philosophy underpinning the 1991

Act the Probation Service has been in political limbo. Slowly, through internal critique, it is remaking itself, recognising that it must provide, and be seen to provide, a service for the whole community. It is putting its blinkered and nostalgic defence of social work training behind it, but not, quite rightly, its due regard for the place of care and support in all effective work with offenders, or its belief that social exclusion lies at the root of much, if not all, criminal behaviour.

So long as it is not undermined by the most managerialism, it is to the Probation Service, in partnership with reputable voluntary agencies, that one should look for the new ways of dealing with crime to which your editorial referred. Its potential remains untapped.

Dr MIKE NELLIS  
Lecturer in Probation Studies  
University of Birmingham

Sir: The Home Secretary has repeatedly declared his intention

to be tough on crime and criminals, reflecting what he believes the public wants. Now, in conjunction with an increasing prison population, he proposes yet further legislation which will inevitably place greater demands on the decreasing resources of the Prison Service and in the longer term place the public at risk.

In common with many others working in criminal justice, the Lord Chief Justice takes the view that the detection of the criminal is the most effective deterrent. Research repeatedly shows that imprisonment's net effect is to increase recidivism.

Conversely, the work of the Probation Service in addressing criminality and the underlying causes of offending (most notably substance misuse), serves to reduce the likelihood of further criminal behaviour.

A J BARROW  
Chief Probation Officer  
Suffolk Probation Service  
Ipswich

### Flaming days in high school

Sir: Regarding the origin of "flame" in Charles Arthur's A to Z of the digital world (11 March), when I was a high school student in Canada in the 1970s, "flame" was the commonly used contraction of "shot down in flames". Being Canadian, and with pretensions toward bilingualism, we eventually switched to "brulure" or "brulureville", but the original connotation of "flame", with its quasi-violent vision of a WWII Icarus plummeting towards ignominy remained with us always.

R DORNAN  
London SW3

### Taipei appeals for peace

Sir: Regarding your leading article, "Resisting the roar of the dragon" (12 March), it is absolutely untrue that President Lee Teng-bui is committed to independence which you mentioned in your article. President Lee Teng-hui has reiterated his stance against independence and appealed for peaceful solutions many times on different occasions.

MICHAEL KUO  
Assistant Director  
Press and Information  
Division  
Taipei Representative Office  
in the UK  
London SW1

### A typical teenager answers back

Sir: I was delighted to discover from your article ("The changing face of the British teenager", 9 March) that I am in fact a typical British youth of the Nineties. I'm 17 years old, I own two pairs of Converse trainers, I listen to Blur, Jarvis Cocker is my "icon" and, other than the fact that I have never worn a "puffa jacket", I seem to be in keeping with my peers. That is to say I feel my education is very important, I agree that the age of consent for marriage should be higher, I'm not particularly interested in politics and it is my belief that stricter discipline would reduce the crime rate considerably.

However, I was slightly dis-

mayed to find that we British teenagers were being mocked with such comments as "we have Generation Zzzz" and "Come back, James Dean". Without wishing to sound like the stereotypical media portrayal of an adolescent, I find this very unfair. Will it ever be possible for teenagers to satisfy their elders?

I accept that the figure of 59 per cent of us having no interest in politics makes us appear apathetic; but for my part the only access I have to the world of politics is to watch MPs, on all sides, making a mockery of the democratic process by showing more interest in scoring points off each other than even attempting to sort out the problems of society. This doesn't exactly inspire me.

KIM COVENEY  
Reading, Berkshire

### Amber for animal welfare

Sir: Joyce D'Silva writes (Letters, 12 March) that the Nuffield Council on Bioethics has given a "green light for pig-human organ transplants".

In fact, Professor Albert Weale, the chairman of the council's working party on xenotransplantation, summed up the message as "Proceed, but proceed with caution, always paying attention to the highest standards of patient care and animal welfare." In terms of traffic lights, this is perhaps more like the flashing amber on a pelican crossing.

If Joyce D'Silva and Compassion in World Farming examine the report, they will find that Chapter 5 contains detailed discussion and recommendations for action to promote the welfare of transgenic pigs that may be used for transplantation.

DAVID SHAPIRO  
Executive Secretary  
Nuffield Council on  
Bioethics  
London WC1

### Concrete values

Sir: What's the difference between a gang rapist, a drink-drive murderer and a talented graffiti artist? At least one more year in jail - if you're the artist ("Artist" drawn to crime is jailed for five years", 13 March).

What kind of perverted society are we that values the appearance of a slab of concrete more than a human life or human dignity?

PETER LAWRENCE  
Thame,  
Oxfordshire

### Anachronistic birthright

Sir: Who is Earl Russell (Letters, 11 March) to talk of a voting system that provides true representation? He insists that he has a birthright is a right given by birth, to speak in, and influence, our legislature.

Let him divest himself of this anachronism and then talk seriously about an elected Commons (and even a Second Chamber).

MARTIN SHAW  
London N14

### Princely president

Sir: Barbara Muir (Letters, 11 March) is apparently of the opinion that the Prince of Wales would be eminently suited to be president of the republic that we may one day enjoy by virtue of his Welsh, Irish, Scottish and English ancestry. She seems to have overlooked the fact that his father is Greek and that his mother's lineage is largely German.

MARK UNSWORTH  
Sproton, Leicestershire

### Romantic realist

Sir: Jeffrey Richards suggests ("The BBC's voice of two nations", 13 March) that the BBC is catering for two audiences in its recent successes *Our Friends in the North* and *Pride and Prejudice*. He sets the radical realist against the nostalgic romantic. Surely many viewers like myself find well-made drama of most types equally attractive or am I alone in being a realist, with an escapist streak?

W CUMBER  
Marcham, Oxfordshire

This,   
by Colin

An i  
Peter Popham

A loss  
Zaha Hadid b



## comment

## Blair takes the coward's way out

Labour compromises its honour by not opposing a renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, says Polly Toynbee

Today marks a new low in the honour of new Labour. Few people will agree and the public will not care. Every big battle is on the same side – but that does not make them right. Labour's abstinence on the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, after 15 years of vigorously opposing it, will be a cowardly act of cynicism. As Shadow Home Secretary, Tony Blair gave good reasons for Labour's opposition to the Act. He said there were "two fundamental flaws in the Order – exclusion orders and the absence of judicial review of the extraordinary power of detention". He said the Act was "virtually unique in the Western world" and "contrary to the principles of British justice". He rightly condemned those who "cravenly accept" an Act because its title says it will prevent terrorism.

Those fundamental flaws remain unchanged, but now new Labour "cravenly accepts" them. Exclusion orders mean internal exile, banning Britons from mainland Britain without evidence or right to appeal. Over the past few years some 90 people have been excluded at any one time. Apart from its natural injustice, Protestants complain bitterly at Northern Ireland being treated as a dumping ground for people we would prefer did their terrorism on the other side of the water.

Some 7,000 people have been detained under the Act over the years, allowing police to hold them incommunicado for up to seven days. Labour has always wanted a judge to be called in immediately to review each case. Now, it seems, such reservations do not matter any more. Labour weasels out of the issue by saying it awaits the findings of a government review of the Act. Opposing the Act "would send quite the wrong message at this time", say several of its previously strong opponents. The message they worry about, though, is designed not for the IRA but for the voters. Also, the depressing truth is that this has everything to do with Labour pleasing the Unionists in the current delicate Westminster minut and little to do with furthering peace in Ireland.

Most of those detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act are released without charge or explanation. Sarah Cohen's was a typical case in the night came thunderous bangs on the door and nine men with machine-guns kicked their way in. One of them screamed at her to "get on the

fucking floor" and put his foot on her neck before dragging her away to a police cell, where she was strip-searched and left alone without a lawyer, food or water for 10 hours. Then she was suddenly released without questioning, with a black eye, had bruising, no apology, no explanation. They could have kept her for seven days until she "confessed". Paul Hill of the Guildford Four, falsely imprisoned for 15 years, was the first person arrested under the Act. Today marks exactly five years since the Birmingham Six were released after 17 years in jail.

Well, you may say, there is a war on. Here in Canary Wharf we have felt it shake our tower.

Most of those detained under the Act are released without charge

## This, finally, is Clarke's sticking point

With the Cabinet shifting its centre of gravity, the Chancellor feels lonely on the great issue of Europe

The scene: somewhere in Africa. As far as the eye can see, grey-brown velvet shimmers in the heat. The heat is intense and the silence is utter. It is broken only once, by an aardwolf belching, many miles away. But not everything is quite as it should be. From the shadow of a lone baobab tree, its boughs heavy with moaning hushard, there comes the smell of cheap cigar smoke. And – look! – two feet protrude. And they are wearing Hush Puppies.

Kenneth Clarke (for it is he) has bewildered colleagues by his departure today for the dark continent. At home, the Conservative Party is driving itself into a frenzy about Europe, referendum and similar. Debates are planned, show-downs pencilled in. But the resignator will take no part. He has gone to commune with the meerkat and the secretary-bird.

Mr Clarke might reasonably say that he had waited until the Tory party was not in a frenzy over Europe, he would have been stuck in Britain for ever. Maybe. But he has left an aggressive message about his position. MPs have been waiting for him to deny that he might go. But as I write, no such denial has come.

Ministers have been expressing amazement at the notion that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might resign over something as nebulous and far-off as a plebiscite on monetary union – something that would only happen, after all, if a Tory Cabinet had first voted to abolish the pound. When

Douglas Hurd first went round cabinet members asking about a referendum it was Michael Portillo, not Clarke, who was the most hostile. But really, there is no mystery.

What has happened is that the traditional pro-European view in the Tory party has been crowded from the mainstream to the marginal in a remarkably short space of time. Clarke was once only one of a number of key ministers who were all basically integrationist. There was Hurd, Chris Patten, David Hunt, Malcolm Rifkind, William Waldegrave, Tristan Garel-Jones, Michael Heseltine. Oh yes, and that John Major, too.

Now they are all either gone, or have changed their views, or both. Heseltine doesn't seem to be going to the final ditch on the referendum issue. Among the other cabinet players, John Gummer isn't powerful enough really to help Clarke, while Stephen Dorrell, as a potential leadership candidate, has been busy demonstrating to right-wingers that he is acceptable.

So this is not really about the referendum. It is about Clarke's position in the Government and, inseparable from that, the status of the pro-Maastricht, strongly pro-EU Tories. They feel very isolated; as if their party is slipping away.

What has been happening to the Tories is a little like the Buchanan-Wall Street revolt that has shaken the US Republican Party. The pro-pound Conservatives are not protectionists, of course, but they are also fighting for



ANDREW MARR

## John Major is the only one in Cabinet with a personal veto

familiarity and nationality against supranational forces. In both cases, it has been a popular uprising against the assumptions of the elite. And however bloke Clarke may seem, he has been firmly with the elite.

He may have already privately accepted that this stand disqualifies him from becoming leader of today's Tory party – however much he impresses them by his handling of the economy in general, and the Governor of the Bank of England in particular.

As the Man in the Treasury, Clarke has become increasingly self-confident. There has been no serious pressure from Number 10 for a tax-slashing pre-election spurge. If his nerve paid off, and he delivered a strong-looking economy at election time, he would normally have expected a huge personal dividend from the party.

But he will not pay the necessary price of pretending a modish anti-Europeanism. Other ministers, who have moved, shouldn't be surprised. As Philip Stephens, of the *Financial Times*, recalls in a new book, *Politics and the Pound*, Clarke took the decision not to temporise over a year ago, when he refused repeated requests from Major to tone down a speech denying that British membership of a single currency would have strong constitutional implications.

As Stephens writes, he even ignored the advice of his own political adviser, Tessa Keswick, who "was conscious that such a speech, offering not the slightest concession to the right of the party, could end permanently Clarke's hopes of eventually succeeding Major. Keswick was right, but the Chancellor would not be moved".

He has always despised trimmers. His critics would say he has made a fetish of his own immovable consistency on this subject. Certainly, it has done him no good personally. Since Douglas Hurd left the Cabinet, shifting its centre of gravity, Clarke has undoubtedly felt lonely on the great issue of Europe; but it has been an isolation he has never flinched from.

Even then, that might not have mattered had Major handled it differently. At one level, this resolves itself into the oldest political question: who rules? Is the Cabinet a miniature Parliament, clustered around the Prime Minister; or is it a conclave of party barons, the grandest of whom have an effective veto over big changes in policy?

The answer must be, I think, that while the Prime Minister cannot carry change against a majority of the Cabinet, or an alliance of its grandest members, he is the only minister with a personal veto. No one else is so grand that he or she can hold back an idea to which most of the rest of the Cabinet is committed. In this case, Clarke-plus-Heseltine would have been enough to stop Major. But Clarke by himself may not be.

This leaves Cabinet ministers who find themselves in a minority on a serious issue with a stark choice: shut up, or go. When it comes to a real hush-up, there are few intermediate options.

So the only question left is whether Clarke thinks this is big enough to resign over. Were it only the referendum, that would indeed be a pretty hazy view to take. But it isn't only the referendum. Clarke has been watching the European argument slip, and slip, and slip. We have become used to anti-Maastricht Tories saying that the European issue is "bigger than the party". Why should there not be some pro-Europeans who look at sceptics trying to close off British options and think the same thing?

I don't know if Clarke is there yet. But as a traditional pro-European, at some point he had to make a stand – to say: no more. It seems that the referendum is his chosen sticking-point; and he is sticking. Now he has 10 days away from the charter of Westminster to sit under African skies, smoke cigars, and contemplate his choices. There, and here, the hushards are waiting.

## An industry gone on holiday

Peter Popham laments the departure of an effective director of the British Tourist Association

It is a matter of constant astonishment how many people choose of their own free will to visit Britain. Flocking here in the dead of winter from places like Malaysia, Thailand, the Seychelles and the South of France, they wrap themselves in frigid queues around the walls of Mme Tis-sauds, eburne up the mud in B&A's Potter's garden, stare at castles, chew scones and will tea and moomch dis-consolately through the streets of Camden Town.

Their motivations are varied but, however irrational, the important thing for the economy is that they continue to come. Travel and tourism represent 5 per cent of our gross domestic product and contribute £25bn to the economy annually. Last year, we welcomed 23.6 million visitors from overseas, who spent nearly £12bn; and 87,800 new jobs were created, adding to the 1.5 million already in existence.

The decision of Heritage Secretary Virginia Bottomley not to renew the part-time contract of the director of the British Tourist Association and the English Travel Board, Adele Biss, announced on Monday, will not halt the industry in its tracks. Incoming tour operators predict 8.4 per cent growth this year, and if they turn out to be badly wrong, it is more likely to be the fault of the IRA than of Mrs Bottomley.

But Ms Biss's going, after only three years in the job, gives pause for thought. Within the industry, no one has anything but praise for her: perplexity at her sacking is likewise universal. One theory is that the two women just failed to hit it off. More plausibly it is suggested that Mrs Bottomley's department smarted under Ms Biss's relentless criticism of government underfunding, and fiercely resisted her attempt to increase the BTA's independence.

Coming into a business beset by amateurism, that had been kicked like a punctured football from one government department to another, Ms Biss brought marketing skills honed at

Unilever, and a determination to hoist the industry's standards to international level. For all her good works – and there is a limit to the amount that anyone can do on two days a week – it's painfully clear from Mrs Bottomley's action that a punctured football is what the industry remains.

It is difficult to obtain a clear picture of the true state of Britain's tourist industry. From one perspective, given the many millions of visitors, it has never looked more prosperous. Yet Ms Biss has asserted that it is in long-term decline compared with other destinations for foreign visitors.

## The traditional approach was to let Britain market itself and let the foreign johnnies like it or lump it

while its appeal to the British themselves has been in absolute decline ever since we began forsaking our dunes and corrugated iron windbreaks for the Costa Brava. The number of jobs created in the industry suggests rude health, but there was a deficit of £3.7bn between what British holiday-makers spent abroad last year, and what overseas visitors spent here.

The appearance of rude health is because, once they've got a bit of money in their pockets, milling around in large airplanes is how people all over the world like to spend it. Inevitably, a lot of them end up here. But, relative to many other countries, we are still on the slide.

The problem Ms Biss inherited and will pass on to her successor is that selling a country is an odd sort of business. It is a much more fustian challenge than selling biscuits or whisky or superguns.

On the one hand, you have what your potential customers expect of the place, their preconceptions and prej-



Taking the British sun on Abersoch beach

Peter Macdiamid

udices: Beefeaters, castles. Shakespeare, golf. Big Ben. Shake these expectations too violently and you may turn people off altogether, causing them to drift away in bemusement. Ram them home too stolidly and you risk boring people to death.

On the other hand, you have the bewildering fragmentation of the industry itself: 120,000 small businesses, huge hotel chains, theme

parks, souvenir shops, stately homes, beach resorts, festivals, caravan parks – all clamouring furiously to be promoted abroad. The job of the BTA was somehow to derive a tune from this horrible cacophony, and sing it in stent tones to potential customers.

The traditional solution to the problem was to let Britain market itself in the usual way, with Beefeaters, castles etc, and let the foreign johnnies like

it or lump it. Besides being the least demanding, this approach accorded with the unspoken assumption that having foreigners swilling around our streets in large numbers was really a rather rude do, something to be tolerated rather than actively encouraged.

With Ms Biss's accession, all that was swept away: marketing analysis were drafted in from McKinsey to create a marketing strategy: "the branding of Britain to suit different market segments", as a source at the BTA puts it, which, stripped of jargon, is a sensible thing to do. The French, for example, are keen on shopping in Britain, and on street fashion; so don't sell them Big Ben but Camden market. Japan's "OLs" – so-called "office ladies" – flock to Europe, so lure them here by projecting a softer, more feminine image of the country, an approach pioneered with the successful "tea and roses" campaign. And so on.

The leap in visitor numbers last year suggests that this strategy is beginning to bite. The big question remains of how to sell Britain – and more particularly, England – to the British, and this is one that the cash-strapped English Travel Agency has only just made a start on. Even with global warming, bringing the British back to English beaches is a formidable challenge.

But even larger than that is the question of whether tourism is an industry the Government is minded to take seriously: whether it is to be forced to humble on, chronically underfunded, chaotically structured, and guided by a part-timer, as hit-erto; or whether its importance to the nation's economy is for the first time to receive proper financial recognition.

Ms Biss has done a heroic job of making bricks with the bare minimum of straw; but by trying to turn the BTA into a more serious and independently minded organisation, she seems to have paved the way for it to be reformed by the reforms she was pressing for are exactly what the industry needs.

## A loss for architecture and for Wales

Zaha Hadid bemoans the rejection of her radical design for the Cardiff Bay Opera House

I have recently learnt that my design for the £86m Cardiff Bay Opera House has been killed off. I am bitterly disappointed: anger is too simple a word to describe my emotions. My upset is not only because I personally feel tremendously sad for years to achieve. It is because this decision is a tragedy for the people of Wales. The innovative nature of my design, which had already passed over numerous hurdles, promised to provide the Welsh capital and opera with a celebration of creative imagination with which to mark the new millennium. Its rejection, by stubborn short-sightedness and conspiratorial backstabbing, is a triumph for petty-mindedness.

The villains of this piece are a collection of local politicians and business people who got together last week at the Institute of Wales. By blackballing the project, they destroyed any chance it might have of winning funding from the Millennium Commission.

The people of Wales should know what they have lost. Gone is the prospect of a 2,000-seat theatre incorporating the best acoustics that would show musicals, cabaret, pantomime, dance and opera. The Welsh National



The house that never was: Zaha Hadid with her winning design

Opera, one of the finest opera touring companies in Europe will not, as a result, have a home. A project that promised to do for Wales what the Sydney Opera House did for Australia has been needlessly frustrated: my

design would have been the catalyst for the rejuvenation of the entire Cardiff Bay area, drawing in visitors, investment and tourism.

The design team planned to integrate a 10,000-square metre wing for the National Museum and Galleries of Wales into the opera house site. This would have featured a glass jewel, housing a 13th-century Celtic cargo boat, recently unearthed in the River Severn. Additionally, there would have been a 300-seat Imax theatre and exhibition spaces to show the evolution of Wales within the context of world history. The whole panorama of Cardiff Bay and the docks would have unfolded beyond an open-plan floor of nautical artefacts. The new design's emphasis on Welsh museum, art and popular music powerfully addressed concern that this would be an elitist building. This opera house and its accompanying museum promised to be a cultural complex for all the people of Wales.

The design had passed many tests. It had emerged as winner in an international architectural competition with 259 entries over two rounds. No one could fairly doubt that the winning design had been selected because

of its architectural and technical merit. Indeed, it had come to prominence despite being submitted as an outsider, rather than from one of four well-known architectural practices which were specially invited to participate in the final round.

The design captured the imagination of the local press, the architectural press and the national press, generating thousands of column inches. It was exhaustively re-examined, even after it was picked. Yet it survived even this scrutiny.

Although the decision to stop the project so abruptly has been made in Wales, there are wider implications that will beg questions from all the organisations involved in this bid. The first will be to the Millennium Commission itself whose original remit, as cited by Peter Brooke, then Secretary of State for National Heritage, was to build 12 grand projects around the country. The commission made clear that the opera house was the type of project that it would want to support. Yet the commission has so far failed to approve funding for the scheme. It must now face the accusation that it lacks vision and courage to give life to new, modern projects

that look forward to the next millennium. The failure of my design, despite its success in passing all the tests set for it, is a ghost that will haunt the Millennium Commission. It now looks like a bureaucratic body that is ill-equipped to respond to forward-looking ideas.

The decision to kill off the project also questions the whole process of architectural competitions in this country – which are often the best way to choose between rival designs. But above all, the biggest question is that, given the golden opportunity to reap the rewards of the Millennium Commission funding, and with a design improved to reflect its earlier critical reception, local factions took it upon themselves last week to kill off the project. It is for these individuals to identify themselves and explain actions that will result in a great loss to so many people in Wales, who want to give their country a modern face that is open to the arts and innovation. These individuals must answer now publicly to the visitors to the museum, to the audiences in the theatre, and to the Welsh National Opera. They must explain why they have killed off Wales' flagship for the future.

## "How to Look Sexy, Make Friends and Manage Your Boss"

## People Watching

by

Vernon Coleman

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## obituaries / gazette

## Krzysztof Kieslowski

Poland today isn't very certain of itself. It has had so little freedom in its history that it isn't sure what to do with it; and it is wary of the consumer society being thrust upon it by outside investors. To what extent the end of Communism was hastened by its movie-makers is uncertain, but certainly the foundation of Solidarity in 1980 was accompanied by the subversive voice of Andrzej Wajda, by general consent the country's greatest director, notably in *Man of Marble* (1976) and *Man of Iron* (1981).

Wajda influenced every Polish movie-maker of the next generation, among them Krzysztof Zanussi, Feliks Falk and Krzysztof Kieslowski, all of whom sent out parables about the corruption and incompetence of the regime. These, whether set among the bureaucrats themselves, or in journalism, or in the world of provincial theatre were easily decipherable, but at the same time they managed to be powerful, subtle and clever.

Of these film-makers only Kieslowski has continued to hold his place internationally, perhaps by finding new subjects. The other directors, I was told

last year in Warsaw, are looking for movies worth making – and are not sure, in the changed Poland, what these are.

Kieslowski studied, like Andrzej Munk and Wajda, at the Lodz Film School, graduating in 1969. Though artistically indebted to Wajda he felt closer to Munk, who also came to features after experience as a documentarist. Indeed, Kieslowski was the leader of "The Cracow Group", which in 1971 issued a manifesto to that effect, that they should learn from dealing with reality how to use their experiences subsequently in fictional features. His first feature was for television, *The Underground Passage* (*Przejście Podziemne*, 1973), which he followed with *Personal* (1975), drawing on his own experience directing for the stage. He also wrote the screenplay, which he later described as "half-documentary, half-feature with no clear dividing line. The point was that theatre is a place in which various fragments of life focus, various elements of reality happen in one place... I called it 'a pill of reality'."

That's why I set it in a theatre; it could be made anywhere, in a factory, in an office, it didn't matter. Juliusz Machulski played a theatre graduate working backstage, fascinated by the world of make-believe but gradually becoming aware that what was only created by a combination of ambition and devious politicking.

The film won the Grand Prix at Mannheim, encouraging Kieslowski to express the point of view of those who do the manipulating. *The Night Porter's Point of View* (*Z Punktu Widzenia Nocnego Portiera*, 1978), a documentary short, allowed the night porter to express his satisfaction in the control he has in this job and another at week-



A constructor of intricate puzzles: Samuel Leblanc and Irène Jacob in Kieslowski's last film, *Three Colours - Red* (1994)

ends as a park superintendent, in which capacity he has moral designs on even petty offenders. The authorities disliked the film, but allowed it to be shown the following year in a suburb of Warsaw, where it attracted crowds which didn't always stay for the main feature.

Kieslowski once explained the difficulty of getting such films made: "It is simply a duty, I am trying all the time, I believe in trying. There is also a matter of pressure". He went on to say that after having 10 screenplays rejected there was always the possibility of an 11th slip-

ping through.

This is clearly what happened in the case of *The Scar* (*Bliźna*, 1976), Kieslowski's first feature for cinema, ostensibly the story of a man (Franciszek Pieczka) who returns to his native town to construct a factory. The film managed to touch on the 1970 riots (caused when the government ordered price rises in staple foods just before Christmas), and this aspect – what Kieslowski called "the painful area of reality" – gave Wajda his "way in" to *Man of Marble*.

*Camera Buff* (*Amator*, 1979)

was written by Kieslowski and his leading actor, Jerzy Stasiński, who plays a factory worker who buys a camera to record the progress of his baby. As he is the only employee with a camera, he is invited to film the factory's 25th anniversary celebrations. After his movie wins a prize, he becomes so obsessed with movies that his marriage breaks down. *Camera Buff*'s key scene is when the worker meets Zanussi at a film show and asks him why he makes movies. Zanussi replies that it is increasingly hard to do so because the world is dishonest –

and the dishonesty is caused by those who have taken it upon themselves to run our lives.

Those people inevitably disliked the film, but after it shared the Grand Prix at the Moscow Film Festival there was little point in banning it. *Blind Chance* (*Przypadek*, 1982), however, prohibited for five years. It starts with Witk (Bożena Linda) running for a train and shows, in tripartite form, what happens if he catches it or if he misses it. In the first place he meets a Communist of the old school, in the second he becomes a dissident, and in the

last there is no train and he settles down to a humdrum life. *No End* (*Bez Knocka*, 1988) begins with its protagonist, a lawyer (Jerzy Radziwiłowicz), already dead; he had been defending a working man accused under martial law for organising a strike. His widow, realising the State's evidence is weak, decides to take on the cause, and with her husband's ghost helps the worker's wife.

The changed climate in Poland brought Kieslowski the co-operation of Polish television for his series of hour-long moralities based on the Ten Commandments, *Detalog* (1988), chiefly set on a Moscow housing estate. Two of them, *A Short Film About Killing* (*Krótki Film O Zabiciu*) and *A Short Film About Love* (*Krótki Film O Miłości*), he expanded into features.

Throughout the films there is little suggestion of a new Poland, as each grimly questions the role of authority and the responsibility of the individual. There is no love in any of them – literally in *A Short Film About Love*, when its heroine pronounces that ejaculation is "all there is" to love. Life on this housing estate is unflinchingly cruel, though it does display Kieslowski's remarkable talent for commonplace details. What is less to the fore is the intellectual muscle of *Blind Chance* and *No End* – and the celebration of the complexity of life.

The two "Short Films" did more than those movies had done to establish Kieslowski on the art-house circuit, also enabling him to get French backing for *La Double Vie de Véronique* (1991), which followed the adventures, mainly amorous, of Weronika in Cracow and her name-sake and look-alike, Véronique, in Paris. The whole is an artificial, whimsical box of conceits, as hermetic

as it is cerebral. Enigma follows enigma, as in its contemporary, *The Crying Game*, but whereas everything in that film proved to have a purpose this becomes little but a series of irrelevancies. Neil Jordan's film tossed its audience to the fates, as Kieslowski's used to do: this time Kieslowski gave the impression of a puppeteer only anxious to manipulate.

Again in France (and Switzerland), Kieslowski did his trilogy *Trois Couleurs - Bleu* (1993), *Bleu* (1993) and *Rouge* (1994), each purporting to examine qualities suggested by the French flag – liberty, equality, fraternity. This turned out not to be the case. Writing in *Sight and Sound*, Philip Strick found the second "mere game-playing by Kieslowski and his co-writer [Krzysztof] Piesiewicz... So much mystery is engendered that it unfolds in a fog of imprecision". Writing in *New York* magazine of the third film, David Denby said, "There are moments of great beauty in everything Kieslowski does, but he is essentially a constructor of intricate puzzles; an artificer, perhaps, but not an artist."

That was not a judgement anyone who admired his earlier films would ever have expected. Perhaps, after all, he found less to say once his homeland had found its freedom. Zanussi had temporarily filled his creative gap by becoming the art director on *La Double Vie de Véronique*. Perhaps we know why Kieslowski announced that *Trois Couleurs: Rouge* would be his last film – though he did appear to have changed his mind before his illness.

David Shipman

Krzysztof Kieslowski, film director, writer, born Warsaw 27 June 1941; married (one daughter); died Warsaw 13 March 1996.



Kieslowski: talent for commonplace details. Photograph: AFP

## Michael Blee

Michael Blee was an enlightened architect and a gifted and inspiring teacher. But it was in his church work – which ranged from completing Douai Abbey to a recent design for a Seventh Day Adventist Church in Bala – that his heart lay, and it is for this that he will be remembered.

The son of a clergyman, born in 1931, Blee himself became an Anglican lay reader, and strove all his professional life for the reunification of the arts in the life of the Church – something that made him identify with the notion of being a "Goth".

He studied architecture at the Brighton College of Arts and Crafts (now Brighton University), and spent his National Service in the Royal Engineers in Malaya. This gave him the opportunity to produce a study of colour in Malayan village settlements for which he was later awarded the Royal Institute of British Architects' Owen Jones Studentship in 1957. He opted to be demobbed in the Far East, and went on to work in Singapore and in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) as well as travelling to Japan, India and Greece where he researched sacred architecture, laying the foundations for his subsequent development. Back in England he joined his brother Anthony Blee, also an architect, working for Basil Spence. A Fulbright Award in 1957 then took him to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), followed by work at the Architects Collaborative under Walter Gropius.

Michael Blee's own work, consisting largely of housing and churches, was perhaps modest in commercial terms, but it was conducted over 30 years against a background of full-time teaching in the Brighton School of Architecture where he was responsible for the initiation and development of the Interior Design degree course, earned a PhD degree from Sussex University and was a central contributor to the activities of the RIBA in the south-east region and its Sussex branch. His standards never dropped and every-

thing in which he was engaged was marked by a commitment to detail and a single-minded collegiality which students and colleagues found equally demanding.

Two of his unrealised housing projects are memorable because of their scale of vision and sheer panache: a 37-storey hotel on Brighton seaford designed in 1980 and a massive housing scheme on a chalk cliff overlooking Lewes in 1975. The controversy over these was considerable, but the fact that they were instrumental in getting people to talk about their environment delighted him.

Blee's career spanned a period when the design of church-

es was subject to momentous change. From the middle of the 20th century, the liturgical movement promoted the view that the celebrant, and therefore the position of the altar in a church, should be moved closer to the congregation. The reintroduction of the altar from its isolated east-end location to the heart of the church was fully in accord with Blee's own convictions, and the use of structural expressionism, following the William Butterfield and G.E. Street tradition, seemed to him consistent with the kind of modernism he espoused.

Such an attitude was wholly compatible with the reintroduction of able craftsmen and their expressions, not only in the use of their skills, but in their participation with him in an annual service of dedication and worship at Southeast Church on the edge of the Ouse Valley. He was also a member of the Art Workers' Guild.

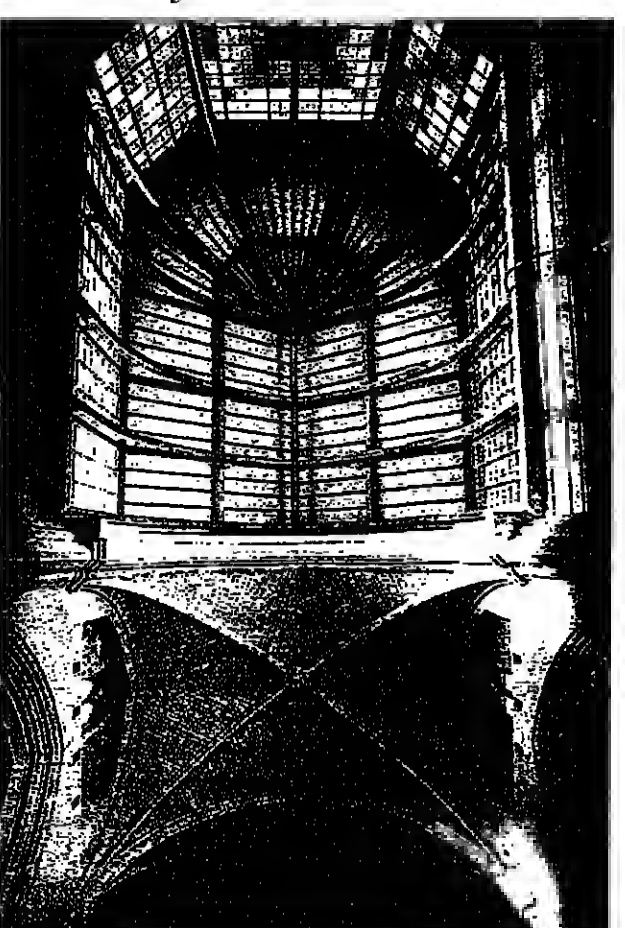
The "genius loci" of place was important to him, and the extent of the awards, Civic Trust, RIBA and others, that he was given showed that these qualities of contextualism as well as invention, were widely professionally appreciated. Prize-winning projects included the Priory of Our Lady of Good Counsel at Sayers Common (1980), All Saints, Isleworth (1974), the Church of the Holy Innocents at Orpington (1984), St Paul's Church, Brentford (1992) and the soaring roofs and spaces of Douai's Abbey Church (1993), at Woolhampton in Berkshire.

Douai's abbey church was built from 1928 to 1932, when the money ran out and it was left unfinished. Fifty-five years later Michael Blee was commissioned to complete it. These dominant roofs of local materials were always accompanied by complex decorative features with some functional origin: turrets, aedicules (little canopied niches for statues of saints – one of Michael Blee's favourite words) and the like. Internally, they were marked by complex structural framing systems, often of wood, seeking the opportunity for "connective celebration" in the Pugin tradition. Similarly the interior fittings, made by his beloved craftsmen, always in fine materials, confirmed his conscious linking in the same tradition.

These buildings together show unmistakably the values, preoccupations, skills and attitudes of a much valued colleague and they will remain as witnesses to his commitment.

Peter Bareham

Michael Blee, architect: born Brighton, Sussex 8 March 1931; married 1960, Alexandra Louka-tou (four sons, one daughter); died Lewes, Sussex 18 February 1996.



Looking up at where Michael Blee's soaring roof of 1993 (top) meets the original at Douai Abbey Church. Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

## Willie Gunn



Gunn (above) and the "miracle" salmon fly (below) which took his name

Willie Gunn gave his name to one of the most successful patterns of Scottish salmon fly ever devised, the fame of which has spread throughout the world. Today, salmon anglers would consider themselves to be improperly dressed were they to appear on the river bank without at least one Willie Gunn in their fly box.

The pattern was designed to imitate a hair-wing version of a fly dressed Thunder & Lightning, and the originator of the design was an RAF officer, Flight Lieutenant Miller, who was based at Kinloss in Morayshire. Miller dressed salmon flies for another famous Scottish salmon angler, Rob Wilson, of Brora, and the two men were anxious to rationalise the large number of hair-wing patterns which were then in the late 1940s beginning to appear in an ever-increasing range of shapes and sizes.

Miller produced 25 patterns which he sent to Wilson for his comment and approval. Wilson was examining the newly-arrived flies in his shop one morning when Willie Gunn called to equip himself with a few patterns for a day's sport on the River Brora. "By gum," Gunn said to Wilson, pointing to one of the flies, "that looks bonny. If I had a choice, that's the one I would use." "Well," said Wilson, "you must have it and we will name the fly the Willie Gunn."

During the course of his day's fishing Gunn caught six salmon on the fly, and on the following day a further four. News of the "miracle" fly quickly spread throughout the north and within a short space of time the fly had established itself as a principal weapon in the salmon angler's armoury.

Willie Gunn was born in the township of Skerry on the wild north coast of Sutherland where his father was a crofter and fisherman. Gunn started work with the Forestry Commission in the Borge Forest; the first forest to be planted in the north, in 1929. After trying his hand at farming, which he did not like, Gunn found employment as a keeper, gillie and stalker on the Sutherland Estates where he spent the remainder of his working life.

It was whilst Gunn was based at Loch Choinne, in Caithness, on the south side of Ben Klibreck, that he caught his first salmon and fell in love with fishing. The salmon was taken from the River Mallart, a tiny tributary of the River Naver, and it weighed 16lb. Ever after, Gunn was a confirmed salmon angler. The largest fish he landed was a magnificent specimen of 28lb which he caught in the Benzie Pool of the River Brora.

Gunn's salmon fishing technique was based upon precision: he never fished out a bad cast. If the first cast was wrong, he immediately corrected it and began again. He was always more concerned about covering known salmon lies effectively rather than following the ethos of the "chuck-it-and-chance it" brigade.

Wilson. Gunn replied politely and then mentioned that Wilson had been fishing the wrong bank; he should have been fishing the south bank, the north bank being reserved that day for Gunn's own use.

On many Highland rivers, to fish someone else's water inadvertently or not, is nothing other than a lingering offence. Mortified, Wilson asked Gunn why he had not said something before he had started to fish down Gunn's pool. "That would never do," replied Willie, "I did not want to spoil your enjoyment." The matter was never mentioned again.

Gunn's other great passion was motor cars, for latterly he acted as a chauffeur for the Sutherland family. His eyes would sparkle when he recalled the names of the cars he drove over the narrow, twisting roads between Inverness and Golspie: "What lovely cars they were! Lagondas, Rolls Royces, Armstrong Sidleys, BMWs..." Gunn claimed he had once driven the route in under an hour, no mean feat in those days.

It is a mark of the regard in which he was held that Willie Gunn's funeral was attended not only by his many friends but also by many who knew of him only by the famous fly to which he gave his name.

Bruce Sandison

William Gunn, angler: born Skerry, Sutherland 14 March 1909; married 1946 Euphemia Mackintosh; died Inverness 6 March 1996.

## Marguerite Duras

In his obituary on Marguerite Duras [4 March], John Calder says that Robert Antelme – Duras's husband – was a rich businessman, and that Antelme is portrayed in *Moderato Cantabile*, writes Anthony Rudolf. These are two serious errors of commission. Antelme was not a rich businessman and was not the model for the husband in that fictional work.

In fact Robert Antelme worked for years as an editor at Gallimard. Calder also fails to signal the fact that the husband of Duras can himself be described as a great writer, albeit on the strength of one book: this is *L'espèce humaine*. As recounted in Duras's *La Douleur* and elsewhere, Antelme was an active member of the Resistance and was arrested by the

Gestapo in 1944. He was rescued from Dachau by François Mitterrand.

Antelme's masterpiece, published in 1947 – the same year as Primo Levi's *If this is a man*, and echoing its title – finally appeared in American translation in 1992, entitled *The Human Race*. The book is mainly about his time in Ganderheim, a forced labour camp, and is the

only non-fiction work on the camps to equal Levi's book.

Marguerite Duras, with a large body of work of great originality and distinction, may be the more important writer but no single text of hers matches Antelme's phenomenology of servitude transcended. It is one of the great neglected books of the century outside its native country.

Bruce Sandison

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## DEATHS

BEYON: On 11 March, William John Granville, 66, husband of Megan, father of Margaret, Meurig and James, grandfather of Granville, Elinor, Megan, William, Rachel and Sarah. Funeral service at 1pm on Tuesday 19 March at Ebenezer Dumant, Swansea, followed by cremation at Morriston Crematorium at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations for the Cystic Fibrosis and Stroke Association may be given to W.H. Daniels & Son, Funerals Directors, Mill Street, Aberystwyth. Telephone 01792 612339.

CALTON: Pam Jane Church, peacefully at home on 10 March. So much loved by George, Gram, Graham and Sall. Funeral at Christ Church, Virginia Water, at 11.30am Friday 22 March followed by cremation at Woking Crematorium. Family flowers. Donations if desired to Jerry

Gwen Foundation, c/o F. Harrison & Son, 40 Harcourt Rd, Enfield. Telephone enquiries to 01783 432163.

McARTNEY: Alison Caroline Elliott, peacefully at home on Friday 8 March, after a long illness. Burial at Highgate Cemetery on Friday 15 March at 3pm. Ceremony afterwards at Lauderdale House, Highgate, 3.45pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL. Telephone 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Wills

Professor Robin Oliver Gandy of Oxford. Reader in Mathematical Logic, Oxford University 1969-86, left estate valued at £385,121 net.

Susi Bush, of London W4, the television producer, left estate valued at £186,696 net.

## Birthdays

Prince Albert of Monaco, 38; Sir Kenneth Alexander, Chancellor, Aberdeen University, 74; Miss Pam Ayres, poet, 49; Sir Ian Bruce MP, 49; Mr Michael Caine, actor, 63; Mr Jasper Carrott, comedian, 51; Professor Sir Colin Doherty, Dean, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 65; Mr Alan Elliott, Chief Constable, Cumbria, 54; Li-Guen Sir Peter Graham, former General Officer Commanding, Scotland, 59; Sir Philip Holland, former MP, 79; Mr Quincy Jones, handballer, 63; Sir Gavin Laidlaw, chairman, Greater Manchester Buses North, 68; Air Chief Marshal Sir Douglas Lowe, 74; Mr John McCallum, actor and producer, 78; Lord Marsh, former chairman, Newspaper Publishers' Association, 68; Sir Eric Norris, former diplomat, 78; Mr Bill Owen, actor, 81; Sir Richard Parsons, former ambassador to Sweden, 68; Dame Betty Parsons, former chairman, North West Thames Health Authority, 89; General Paul Rader, General of the Salvation Army, 62; Miss Tessa Sanderson, javelin thrower, 40; Mr

William Moore, Headmaster, Belfast Royal Academy, 85; Mr Anthony Smith, President, Magdalen College, Oxford, 58; Miss Rita Tushingham, actress, 54; Sir Nicholas Wad, High Court judge, 51.

## Anniversaries

Births: Georg Philipp Telemann, organist and composer, 1681; Johann Strauss the Elder, composer, 1804; Victor Emmanuel II, King of Italy, 1829; Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli, astronomer, 1835; Mrs Isabella Mary Beeton (Mayson), household and cookery writer, 1836; Paul Ehrlich, bacteriologist, 1854; Albert Einstein, physicist, 1879. Deaths: Jakob van Ruyssdael, painter, 1682; Admiral John Byng, executed for neglect of duty 1757; John Jervis, Earl of St Vincent, admiral of the fleet, 1823; Karl Marx, political philosopher, 1883; William Hale White ("Mark Rutherford"), novelist, 1913; Walter Crane, painter and illustrator, 1915; Cesar Cui, composer and writer, 1918; George Eastman, photographic inventor, 1932; Nikolai

Ivanovich Bukharin, Russian journalist and politician, executed 1938; Klement Gottwald, Czech leader, 1953; Howard Hathaway Aiken, mathematician and computer pioneer, 1973; Bushy Berkeley (William Berkeley Enos), choreographer, 1976; Sir Huw Prys Wheldon, broadcaster, 1986. On this day: Asiatic cholera first appeared in Ireland, at Belfast, 1832; Lata Albert, Africa, was discovered and named by Sir Samuel Baker, 1864; the first production of *The Mikado*, by Gilbert and Sullivan, was staged at the Savoy Theatre, London, 1885; the first submarine telephone line was laid by the *Monarch* across the English Channel, 1891; the German cruiser *Dresden* was sunk, 1915; a provisional government was set up in Russia, 1917; the German Army began a retreat to the Hindenburg Line, 1917; the first transatlantic radio broadcast was made, 1925; a new translation of the New English Bible (New Testament) was published in London, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Euthymius or Eustathius of Carthage, St Leobinus of Lubin and St Matilda.

## Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Lions and Lambs (II): Cosima Tura, Saint Jerome", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Clare Phillips, "Jewellery: the V&A's collection", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Colin Wigmore, "The Significance of the Wig: 17th-century Dutch interiors", 1.10pm. Exeter University: Terence Copple, "The Baker's Dream: the Education Reform Act 1988 and religious education", 5.15pm. RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Ruth Rosenthal and Clare Paterson, "Architecture on Film: the making of BBC's *Building Signs*", 6.30pm.

## Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Sir Nicholas Bonsor BT, MR, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a luncheon held yesterday at Lancaster House, London SW1, in honour of Dr Car-

los Amat Fores, Minister of Justice, Republic of Cuba.

## Dinners

HMS Victory: Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, hosted a dinner yesterday evening on board his flagship HMS Victory, at Portsmouth Naval Base. Rear-Admiral J.E.N. Welch, Chief of Naval Staff New Zealand, Professor J.H. Newby, Vice-Chancellor, Southampton University, and Mr W.G. Morrison, Chief Scout, also attended.

## Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Bunsen was in the chair at a Foundation for Science and Technology lecture held yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London W1. Mr Duncan Matthews, Dr Bob Bishop, Mr Richard Drury and Mr Mike Powell were the speakers.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales visits Springfield Market and Opera House, London E1; and as President, *Banquets in the Community*, attends the 10th anniversary celebration of the Windsor Fellowship at St James's Palace. The Princess Royal presents the Ritz Club Charity Trophy in the leading charity of the Cheltenham Festival, Gloucestershire. The Duke of Gloucester opens Brown Cow Primary School, Dinton. Prince opens the new building at Lamb Childs Secondary School, Clebury Moor, Leicestershire. The Duchess of Gloucester opens the Daniel Turner Clinic at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London SW10. The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Vice-Marshal, visits Royal Air Force Lydon-on-Ouse, York. North York shire. The Duchess of Kent, Patroness, UNICEF presents the Champion Children Awards, London Television Studios, London SW1. Prince Michael of Kent attends a reception at the Spring Embassy, London, W1, in honour of Fanny Arango Jones, the author of *Queen Victoria in Switzerland*. Changing of the Guard: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment, mounted the Queen's Life Guard at Beresford, 11am. Nipponese Gunpowder Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am. band provided by the Welsh Guards.



## BAT shares knocked by US lawsuit news

TOM STEVENSON  
and JOHN CARLIN

A furious tobacco industry closed ranks yesterday after one of its smallest manufacturers broke the line by agreeing to settle two important liability cases in the United States. News of the out-of-court deal, which sets a dramatic and unexpected precedent, sent BAT's shares tumbling in London.

Liggett, which makes about 2 per cent of American cigarettes including the Eve and Chesterfield brands, has offered to settle its portion of two class actions against the industry and could pay out between 2 and 7 per cent of its pre-tax income over the next 24 years to states attempting to recoup the cost of funding smoking-related health care.

To settle a suit brought by 60 law firms on behalf of US smokers claiming to be addicted, Liggett has also agreed to pay a further 5 per cent of its pre-

1957: First official warning from the US Surgeon-General that excessive cigarette smoking may cause cancer  
1971: Cigarette advertising is banned from radio and television in the US, curbed by the tobacco companies, but upheld by the Supreme Court in 1972  
1979: The Surgeon-General issues a new

tax income for 25 years. Pending approval by a federal court in Louisiana, it would be the first time a cigarette manufacturer has paid a single cent in legal redress for tobacco-related illnesses.

BAT, which is involved in the US lawsuits through its Brown & Williamson subsidiary, said it would continue to defend its position aggressively. It also pledged to continue the fight to prevent the US Food & Drug Administration from extending its jurisdiction to the tobacco industry.

Legal landmarks in the long battle against tobacco companies in the United States  
report, saying cigarettes are more dangerous than previously thought, and would kill 350,000 Americans that year  
1983: The landmark Cipollone case is brought, by a dying smoker who charged the companies with failing to give adequate warning about the dangers of smoking. Case finally dismissed in 1992, but courts rule

BAT was joined by the other US tobacco giants in its promise to fight on. Philip Morris, the US's biggest tobacco maker, said it remained "confident in the strength of our litigation position, and we intend to fight and win all of the cases in which we are involved."

A spokesman for BAT attempted to play down the impact of Liggett's decision to break ranks with the rest of the industry, claiming that the move was based on a continuing proxy

fight with RJR Nabisco to force a split of the bigger company into its constituent tobacco and food operations. Liggett is understood to be attempting to force RJR to take it over and the legal settlement is being seen as a deck-clearing move to force a bid.

As part of the deal with the states of Florida, Massachusetts, Mississippi and West Virginia, Liggett has agreed to fund programmes to help people give up smoking. The states would use the money to help cover costs of treating smoking-induced dis-

that labelling law does not shield the companies from liability  
1988: Surgeon-General issues finding that cigarette smoking is addictive under the standards which apply to illegal drugs  
1994: Castano vs American Tobacco Co, the first big class action suit in which 60 law firms seek massive punitive and compen-

sations, as well as education programmes to persuade people to quit cigarettes.

Liggett also said it had agreed to comply with regulations proposed by the Clinton administration to discourage the sale of cigarettes to children - for example by prohibiting the use of cartoon characters in cigarette advertising.

If the court accepts the deal, Liggett would be absolved from further liability in a class-action suit built on the argument that nicotine levels in cigarettes have been deliberately manip-

satory damages for all past and present smokers  
1994: Mississippi brings the first state lawsuit against the industry, seeking re-imbursement of medical costs incurred in treating smokers. Three other states have since filed similar lawsuits

ulated by US tobacco companies to foster addiction.

Anti-tobacco campaigners have been increasingly confident of substantiating that claim since Jeffrey Wigand, a former BAT employee in the US and the industry's highest ranking defector, turned on his former company, claiming it had long known that tobacco was an addictive drug even when it made public statements to the contrary.

The consortium taking on the tobacco companies represents millions of smokers, as well as former smokers. The total num-

ber of plaintiffs involved could add up to 50 million people.

Industry analysts were divided yesterday over the likely impact of Liggett's move. One said: "The settlement is tantamount to an admission of guilt for the whole tobacco industry and that could affect their ability to contest legal action against them. There is no cap on the potential liability of all the tobacco companies to pay compensation to smokers and pay the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses."

Others claimed, however, the development might actually clear away some of the uncertainty that has dogged the industry.

Liggett is the smallest of America's Big Five tobacco makers, which also include R. Reynolds, American Tobacco, Lorillard Tobacco and Philip Morris. Liggett's proposed damage control exercise has enraged the other companies because until now it has stood by them in a united front, to repel attack by litigators or government health agencies seeking strict regulations on cigarettes.

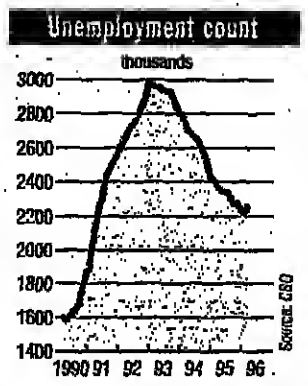
## Unexpected rise in jobless figures

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

The number of people claiming unemployment benefit increased in February for the first time in two and a half years, delivering a blow to Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's hopes that consumers would soon begin to feel the benefits of economic recovery. But low growth in earnings in the year to January, the key month for pay settlements, yesterday encouraged hopes of further interest rate cuts.

The Government shrugged off last month's increase in the number of claimants as a one-off fluctuation around the downward trend, and some City economists agreed that unemployment would resume its decline. Kevin Darlington at brokers Hoare Govett said: "The figures will not yet reflect any significant impact from the recent pace of rate cuts."

On the other hand, some took a gloomier view of the outlook. "The number is not a fluke, it reflects the weakness in



the economy. There is a very respectable argument that interest rates must fall further," said Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Citibank.

Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, commented: "The unemployment trend shows that job insecurity is now the central fact of our economy."

Unemployment climbed by 6,800 to 2.21 million in February, after dropping by 28,300 in January. The news dashed ex-

pectations that joblessness would have fallen for the 30th month running, although the Central Statistical Office said industrial action at benefit offices might partly account for the rise. Official statisticians estimated the trend at a fall of 10,000 a month.

The rise in joblessness fell entirely on men - female unemployment declined slightly. The rise was also concentrated in the North and Midlands, which had seen the biggest falls in January. But unemployment increased in all regions apart from the South-east, East Anglia and Northern Ireland.

Northern Irish unemployment was the lowest for nearly 15 years, although its jobless rate of 11.4 per cent remains the highest in the UK.

Yesterday's figures provided further evidence of recent weakness, especially in industry. Employment in manufacturing divided by 27,000 in January, nearly wiping out the increase in the final quarter of last year. David Walton, UK economist at Goldman Sachs, said: "A few months of rising unemployment are likely as firms, particularly in manufacturing, shed labour in response to below-trend growth in output."

In addition, the number of vacancies at JobCentres - about a third of the total - fell for the third month running, down by 400 to 186,900.

The combination of stable earnings growth and a fall in employment meant annual growth of unit labour costs in manufacturing fell sharply, from 5.0 per cent to 3.0 per cent in January.

Sterling weakened against the German mark in reaction to the figures. Renewed concerns about tensions within the Government over Europe and the UK political outlook also contributed. The pound ended just over half a penny lower at DM2.2424.

Comment, page 19

## George doubts wisdom of rush towards EMU

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that he doubted the wisdom of pressing ahead with the single currency until EU countries had addressed their unemployment problem, writes Diane Coyle. But opting out would not be a soft option for the UK, he said at a Royal Institute for International Affairs conference.

Mr George said many European countries were starting to tackle high unemployment through deregulation of their labour markets. This could have a big effect on the pattern of real wages and jobs, and would make it risky to press ahead with

the single currency on an arbitrary calendar.

"I am concerned that the sort of sprint to the line by the end of next year which is not necessarily helpful in its immediate economic effects," he said.

Britain would have to pursue responsible macro-economic policies as much outside as inside monetary union, he concluded.

At the same conference, Adair Turner, director-general of the CBI, said the benefits of cementing the single market had to be weighed against the danger of industry becoming uncompetitive if tied to the single currency.



Boardroom bliss: Win Bischoff, chairman (left) and Peter Sedgwick, the vice-chairman of Schroders, one of the few remaining big independent UK investment banks, yesterday celebrating their third year of stable profits with a record £197m. Investment column, page 18 Photograph: Jane Baker

## Anglo buys up Tiny's £91m Lonrho stake

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Anglo American Corporation, the South African mining giant, yesterday signalled its interest in Lonrho's mining interests by paying £91m for Tiny Rowland's 5.85 per cent stake in the mining to hotels conglomerate.

Anglo has also been given first refusal for 18 months of the 18.5 per cent holding owned by Lonrho chief executive Dieter Bock. If granted, this would give it effectively a controlling stake when Lonrho's mining interests are demerged later this year.

The deal, at 200.36p a share, sent Lonrho's shares 8p higher at 202p yesterday. It marks possibly the final bow for Tiny Rowland from the group he led in combative style for 33 years

before the arrival of Mr Bock in 1992. The stake bought by Anglo represents the bulk of his remaining holding in Lonrho, which was sold to Mr Bock last Thursday under a put and call option. Mr Bock's company, Laetate BV, passed the holding on to Anglo at the same price at which Mr Rowland exercised his put option.

Anglo has committed itself not to make a general offer for Lonrho ahead of the demerger. Thereafter, it could swap its stake in the non-mining side for Mr Bock's shares in the mining business. Analysts said the deal puts Anglo in a strong position to shut out other potential buyers of the Lonrho assets, including American Barrick Resources and Gencor.

## Radical shake-up for Unilever chiefs

NIGEL COPE

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch consumer products giant, yesterday announced a shake-up of its Byzantine management structure designed to separate strategy from operational functions and make its managers more accountable.

The shake-up includes the abolition of the group's long-standing three-man special committee which used to combine both strategic and operational responsibility. Instead, a new seven man special committee will look after strategy while operational decisions are pushed down to 14 new business groups.

It is the first part of an orga-

nizational review being conducted by Niall FitzGerald, who will succeed Sir Michael Perry as chairman in September.

Sir Michael said he had considered demerger but decided that common functions such as brand marketing and research and development meant the group was better left together.

The shake-up received a cautious welcome in the City which had been concerned that Unilever's rigid "top down" structure hampered its ability to move into new markets such as China and the Far East. The shares rose 20p to £12.28 though there were concerns about further restructuring charges as some head office job losses seem likely.

One analyst said: "It is a step in the right direction as Unilever's structure has remained pretty much the same since the 1930s. But what we really need from this company is growth."

The new seven-man committee comes into effect in September and will be led by the two chairmen Morris Tabaksblat and Mr FitzGerald, together with the finance director, personnel director and three category directors.

The presidents of the 14 business groups will be directly responsible for profitability and the execution of strategy in their own markets.

Comment, page 19

## It's Britain's best-managed business, once again

ROGER TRAPP

Fresh evidence that Britain has only a handful of world-beating companies comes with the latest Quality of Management Awards. Marks & Spencer has taken the first prize - to follow last year's victory and the year before's second place. Runner-up Glaxo Wellcome was fourth last time and, in its pre-merger guise of Glaxo, third the year

before, while British Airways was third in each of the past two years.

The awards - sponsored by opinion pollsters Mori and PA Consulting Group's Sundridge Park management centre - rank companies according to their performance in 18 key areas. Rankings are based on the views of three audiences canvassed by Mori - institutional investors, business and financial

press and captains of industry. Although there was some divergence on the importance of each criterion, the three groups are broadly agreed on which are the best-managed companies in Britain.

However, as Roger Stubbs, chairman of Mori Financial, points out, "there is no magic blueprint for getting it right. Much will depend on the sector a company is in."

Accordingly, while both M&S and Glaxo Wellcome score well in strategy, this is the highest scoring factor for the drugs company and only the second highest, after brand development, for the retailer.

R&D, which comes nowhere for the stores group, is the second most important criterion for the drugs company. People development and management skills are the next highest scores

for M&S - but much lower than for Glaxo Wellcome.

Mori's Mr Stubbs says that the successful company will always be strong on strategy and/or leadership, but must also receive a similar score for the criterion on which it seeks to differentiate itself. "There is not much point in companies setting themselves vague aspirations that do not have any basis in their own experience."

They must decide what they want to do and then throw their resources at it to ensure that they succeed."

And as if to demonstrate what a select band of companies this is, the same group made up the front-runners for the Quality of Governance Award presented at the same ceremony last night. The winner, Marks & Spencer, ahead of last year's winner, ICI.

# STOCK MARKETS

## FT-SE 100




## Dow Jones\*

## Nikkei

\*Source: FT Information  
 \*1995/96 High and Low

Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3540.30	+0.80	+0.0	3781.30	2954.20	4.06
FTSE 250	4229.90	+7.20	+0.2	4280.00	3300.80	3.50
FTSE 350	1831.30	+1.00	+0.1	1899.00	1482.40	3.94
FT Small Cap	2058.33	+4.24	+0.2	2076.11	1678.61	3.07
FT All Share	1811.24	+1.21	+0.1	1864.59	1469.23	3.97
New York*	5567.27	-15.92	-0.3	5642.42	3632.08	2.18
Tokyo	19734.70	-215.57	-1.1	21118.30	14495.40	0.791
Hong Kong	10248.48	-352.97	-3.3	111194.48	9367.63	3.471
Frankfurt	2426.36	-8.59	-0.4	2501.22	1910.96	1.881

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES											
Short sterling		UK medium gilt		US long bond							
											
* 10% Bank lending rate		1 August 1989									
Money Market Rates			Bond Yields *								
Instrument	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago					
UK	6.06	6.31	8.13	8.50	8.25	8.51					
US	5.31	5.50	6.36	7.09	6.67	7.36					
Japan	0.69	0.81	3.23	4.07							
Germany	3.31	3.41	6.57	7.29	7.31						
Benchmark Indices											
MAIN PRICE CHANGES											
Stocks	Price	Change	% Change	Falls	Price	Change	% Change	Stocks	Price	Change	% Change
Cordant	116	11	10.5	BAT Industries	505	35	6.5	Goldcorp	116	11	10.5
West Express	493	25	5.3	English China Clay	315	20	6.0	Goldcorp	116	11	10.5
Kellogg	122	5	4.3	T & N	180	6	3.6	Goldcorp	116	11	10.5

CURRENCIES									
£/\$		£/DM		£/¥		Pound		Dollar	
Yesterday	Change	Yesterday	Change	Yesterday	Change	Yesterday	Change	Yesterday	Change
\$ (London)	1.5234 +0.35c	1.6005	0.0064 -0.15	0.028	\$ (New York)	1.5230 +0.15c	1.5865	0.0060 -0.06	0.026
DM (London)	2.5422 -0.79c	2.2933	0.0000	0.000	¥ (London)	140.414 -30.151	145.454	0.0000	0.000
¥ (London)	140.414 -30.151	145.454	0.0000	0.000	Index	83.2	unch	85.0	-0.2
Index	83.2	unch	85.0	-0.2	Base Rate	5.00pc	6.75		
OTHER INDICATORS									
Yesterday		Day's change		Year Ago		Index		Latest Yr Ago	
OE Brent \$	19.13	+0.47	16.56	RP	150.2 +2.0pc	146.0	21 May		
Gold \$	396.75	0.55	386.6	GDP	107.1	0.5pc	106.1	26 Mar	
Gold £	260.44	+0.49	242.480	Base Rate	5.00pc	6.75			

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# Mercury steps up mobile phone battle

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

Mercury One-2-One, the cellular phone company, yesterday stepped up the battle for market share by bringing forward its plans for full national coverage.

The move came as its rival, Orange, which like Mercury One-2-One is an entirely digital service, prepares for a £2.4bn flotation later this month on the back of a rapid increase in market share.

Richard Goswell, managing director of Mercury One-2-One, said the company planned

to double its coverage to 80 per cent of the population by the end of this year, 90 per cent by the middle of next year and 95 per cent by December 1997.

Mercury has been trailing in the national stakes because of the narrowness of its coverage and the announcement brings forward and expands its investment programme.

The changes are bound to increase the pressure on the three other companies in the highly competitive cellular phone market - Orange, Vodafone and Cellnet - to improve tariffs still further.

There has been a succession of new tariffs announced over the last few months as the industry has fought for new customers.

Mercury said nothing about further tariff changes but admitted these were bound to come in the mobile market as competition continued. It is spending £30m on an advertising and marketing campaign.

Mercury originally set its investment programme at £395m with a target of 65 per cent coverage of the population by the end of this year and 90 per cent by the end of 1997.

This has now been rolled forward about six months, and increased to £470m to pay for an increase in the ultimate target coverage from 90 to 95 per cent.

Mr Goswell said Mercury had "successfully outlasted Orange in our coverage areas since we and they launched." He claimed 27 per cent of gross sales and 19 per cent of the market in these areas, though national figures for Mercury are much smaller, reflecting its poor coverage. "Our challenge is to take these good figures to the rest of the country," he said.

Mr Goswell denied the tim-

ing of Mercury's expansion announcement was anything to do with the flotation of Orange, whose prospectus was published on Tuesday.

Last year, Mercury agreed turnkey construction contracts with Ericsson and NorTel which had been designed to be flexible so they could be accelerated if necessary. "We have now confirmed we can achieve the new targets," he said. Mercury plans to launch in Manchester in April and had made the announcement so customers in the North could feel more confident about the service.

Mercury expects to announce that its customer numbers passed 400,000 in March, compared with 340,000 last September.

Orange is likely to argue as its flotation approaches that Mercury One-2-One expansion is unlikely to damage its own prospects and will help to encourage mobile phone usage.

Both Mercury and Orange have moved away from the philosophy of the original two entrants to the market, Vodafone and Cellnet, which have used their tariffs to encourage low usage customers.

## Hinchliffe makes move into Europe

NIGEL COPE

Stephen Hinchliffe's fast expanding Facia group, made its first move into Europe yesterday when it acquired a German shoe chain, Bata Schuhe. Though the purchase price was not disclosed it is thought to have been a discount to the company's net asset value of £12m. Bata has 110 shops and sales of around £50m but made a small loss last year.

There has been speculation for some time that Mr Hinchliffe may be about to expand into Europe. However, most analysts believed the company already had a heavy workload digesting the myriad of acquisitions it has made in the last year.

Mr Hinchliffe now controls Sock Shop, Salisbury's, Oakland menswear and Red or Dead as well as a raft of shoe shops including Saxone, Freeman Hardy Willis and Curless. His latest deal gives Facia more than 1,000 shops with combined sales of £350m and 8,400 employees.

The company says it intends to change the name of the German chain to one of its UK brands, with Saxone the most likely. The name has some

prominence there as a shoe brand.

Mr Hinchliffe said: "We have always intended to make inroads into Europe as quickly as possible. Initially we thought that franchise operations would be the fastest route and we are making progress on that front in a number of countries, but have kept our eyes open for suitable acquisitions to accelerate the process."

He added that further European acquisitions and franchise deals could not be ruled out. A UK womenswear chain is still in the shopping list.

Facia's chief operating officer Gary O'Brien said the German deal would help the group's UK operations by opening up fresh avenues of supply and distribution. He added that the German operation had its own management team in place and so would not be a drain on Facia's resources. "We anticipate that the German company can undertake many of the functions presently requiring visits to the Continent from the UK."

Facia is due to file its first set of accounts in April. The accounts will cover the period between August 1994, when the company acquired Salisbury's, to January 1995.



Continental foothold: The German shoe chain Bata Schuhe yesterday joined Saxone, Curless and Red or Dead as part of Stephen Hinchliffe's Facia group.

## Warburg profits power ahead

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
Financial Editor

SBC Warburg demonstrated the strengths of the combined City investment banking powerhouse with a sharp jump in pre-tax profits to £455m.

A rocky start to the merger and a rash of senior defections did not stop Warburg - which made a small loss last year - from contributing strongly to the investment banking business under its new owner, Swiss Bank Corporation.

Georges Blum, SBC's chairman, said that cost savings of £137m had been achieved as a result of the integration, well above expectations.

"The two main rationales underlying the SG Warburg acquisitions were that we were able to achieve substantial synergies on the cost side and expand our client franchise, which resulted in a significantly stronger deal flow," he said.

The early success of the merged securities operation was reflected in a "quantum jump" of 195 per cent in operating revenues to £693m. "This was not only the result of favourable market conditions but also of the substantial synergies from the Warburg acquisition."

Corporate finance operating revenues rose by 700 per cent to £202m, thanks to the M&A boom. But SBC conceded that the pick-up was initially subdued. Corporate finance has suffered the worst of the defections, with morale still weak, and a string of high client losses added to the difficulties. Last week SBC Warburg was fired by Halifax as its adviser.

Yesterday's profit figures combined the old SBC investment banking operations as well as Warburg. Swiss Bank Corp reported a 30 per cent increase in group 1995 net profit to £550m.

## CITY DIARY John Willcock

### Courtroom end to a Polly Peck thriller

The trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, a former adviser to exiled tycoon Asil Nadir, at the Old Bailey is entering its fourth week. But this is not stopping Ms Forsyth from publishing *Who Killed Polly Peck?*, her inside view of the collapse of Nadir's £2bn fruit and TV company six years ago. Ms Forsyth is facing two charges of handling stolen money totalling £400,000.

The publishers said yesterday that the book will be published "two weeks after the end of the trial," which does not leave much time to write the last chapter - on how the trial turned out. Co-author Maggie Drummond will have to burn the midnight oil to meet this deadline.



Deadline: Elizabeth Forsyth needs a fast final chapter

A big job ad appeared in yesterday's *Financial Times* for a "VP Head of Operations for the futures trading arm of a major European Bank". Responsibilities of the position would include "overseeing the daily operations of the clearing (sic), customer service and treasury departments". So don't forget your mop.

Here's a Merrill Lynch staff-leaving story with a difference. Recently all the talk has been of Smith New Court people stalking off in a huff following the takeover by Merrill. Last Friday two Merrill people decided to go. Kim Barrett and Phil Hyde on the European equity sales desk have gone to rival investment bank Lehman - for a rumoured million pound package.

A Merrill spokesman did not know the exact figure, but observed yesterday: "If they are moving from a Tier One bank to a Tier Two bank they will have to have been attracted by a good package."

Lord Wakeham - known as Lord Fitch for his role in

putting numerous government initiatives back on track - is today awarded the chartered accountants' Oscar.

Officially known as the "Founding Societies' Centenary Award, the prize has been granted annually since 1980 by the London, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield Societies of Chartered Accountants (the four societies that predate the setting up of the institute) to a "bear counter who has made an 'outstanding contribution in any field of endeavour'."

"Past winners include Sir Kenneth Corke, Sir Trevor Holdsworth, the late Lord Benson, Sir Bryan Carberg, Nigel Rudd and the Right Rev Jim Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells. Evie Bowyer, chairman of the London Society of Chartered Accountants, observed yesterday, somewhat desperately: "It is very important for our profession that we recognise just how wide-ranging can be the influence of chartered accountants."

## Deal nears in \$375m Chile fund fight

NIC CICUTTI

The bitter battle for control of one of the biggest Latin American investment trusts appeared close to settlement yesterday after the two warring parties, Regent Kingpin Acquisitions and GT Capital Management, announced that they had finally reached a provisional deal.

The outline agreement brings an end to months of warfare

over the US \$375m (£270m) Chile Fund, which dragged down Chilean shares and trapped millions of pounds invested by some of Britain's biggest managers - including Standard Life and Gartmore.

Under the terms of the deal hammered out between RKA and GT, shareholders in GT's contested Chile Fund will have a choice of investment funds managed by either party or get

cash for their shares. The deal still needs the approval of 75 per cent of GT Chile shareholders, the London Stock Exchange, and the Cayman Islands and Chilean authorities.

The takeover battle for the Cayman Islands-based fund, one of the biggest single investors in the Chilean stock market, was launched last year by RKA, part of the Regent Pacific Group, in Hong Kong.

Despite opposition from GT, the Chile Fund's managers, RKA managed to seize control of 64 per cent of the investment trust's shares. However, GT, advised by a team at Swiss banking group UBS, together with Barings, fought a rearguard battle over the fund.

Philip Stephens, a managing director at UBS, said: "All the shareholders can get cash, and those investors who want to re-

main managed by GT can now do so. We hope that a significant proportion of shareholders will choose that option although it is obviously up to them."

Under the terms of the deal two separate funds will be set up, managed by GT and RKA respectively. Minority shareholders in the GT Chile Fund and those holding RKA preference shares will be able to choose either manager or take cash.

Corporate finance operating revenues rose by 700 per cent to £202m, thanks to the M&A boom. But SBC conceded that the pick-up was initially subdued. Corporate finance has suffered the worst of the defections, with morale still weak, and a string of high client losses added to the difficulties. Last week SBC Warburg was fired by Halifax as its adviser.

Yesterday's profit figures combined the old SBC investment banking operations as well as Warburg. Swiss Bank Corp reported a 30 per cent increase in group 1995 net profit to £550m.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

### Hiccup at Reed fails to dent confidence

Reed's recent failure to sell its consumer books arm was a hiccup in an otherwise happy relationship with the City. Yesterday's full-year figures, showing a 19 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £723m, did nothing to upset investors' confidence. The shares, which have more than doubled in the past three years, closed 19p higher at 1.057p.

Operating in a rapidly-changing environment, where electronic publishing is making rapid and unpredictable inroads into traditional printed media, Reed has three tasks, all of which these latest results suggest it has safely in hand: managing its existing print operations, keeping ahead of the game as the industry goes electronic and spending its prodigious cash flow.

As far as the first task is concerned, selling out of its lower-margin consumer operations makes abundant sense. The returns, and quality of earnings, to be had from scientific, professional and business publishing are eminently preferable. Elsevier Science, for example, saw profits jump 12 per cent from an 8 per cent sales increase with subscription renewals higher than expected.

Recruitment advertising boosted Reed Business Publishing and operating profits bounced 30 per cent as a result. The IPC consumer magazines managed a 14 per cent profit rise as new products, cover price rises and cost-cutting more than made up for higher paper prices.

The move into electronic publishing was given a huge lift by the December 1994 purchase of Lexis-Nexis which gives Reed an entree into the lucrative and rapidly-growing market among lawyers and other professions for on-line information. One of the big attractions of database publishing is that incremental sales tend to feed straight through to profits once the initial cost of setting up the

information is written off - and last year a 10 per cent rise in sales resulted in a 50 per cent boost to profits.

So running its businesses well, and with a good track record on acquisitions, attention now focuses on how well Reed can spend a war chest which the company estimates at as much as £2bn, an amount which would still leave it with a comfortable interest cover of 6 times. No deals are imminent but expect them to be in the US, the largest and most sophisticated market for the electronic publishing Reed has increasingly in its sights.

Looking ahead the outlook appears as bright as ever. One broker is forecasting earnings growth over the next three years of a better than average 14 per cent per annum. Reed offers investors a unique exposure to international information markets, high quality earnings, a strong balance

sheet and a pleasing lack of regulatory uncertainty. All that comes at a price, of course, and on the basis of pre-tax profits of almost £800m this year, the shares stand on a prospective p/e of 19. About right.

#### Gloomy view at China Clays

English China Clays, the world's biggest producer of minerals for the paper industry, has precious little to show for five years of restructuring under outgoing chief executive Andrew Teare. The shares, down 19p to 316p yesterday, have gone nowhere in that period and profits still remain short of the £100m they reached in 1990. It is now clear that September's de-

cision to raise the half-way dividend for the first time since 1990 was premature. The £2.1m increase in full-year profits to £95.1m unveiled yesterday was well short of expectations. But what really hit sentiment was ECC's gloomy view of the paper market, which accounts for 70 per cent of the volumes of the group's two main minerals businesses.

Despite a string of profits warnings from paper companies, the extent of the destocking which became evident from last autumn plainly caught the group unawares.

What makes it worse for ECC is its apparent inability to cash in on a rise in the cycle, which was still in full swing in the first part of 1995. The lion's share of last year's 11 per cent rise in operating profits to £62.2m in the European minerals business came from cost savings. Price rises were a meagre 2 to 3 per cent at a time when paper prices were soaring.

ECC continues to face the problem that its main kaolin business is losing market share. At the same time, the specialty chemicals business based on Calgon, acquired in 1993, has not lived up to expectations. Margins remain well short of the promised 10 per cent, slumping from 8.6 per cent to 6 per cent in 1995.

Against that uninspiring background, a forward p/e of 15, assuming profits of just £93m this year, suggests the shares are high enough.

#### Schroders shows its strengths

A slip in investment banking earnings and a sharp jump in costs took some of the sheen off record profits at Schroders yesterday. But as one of the few independent UK investment banks left it demonstrated the advantages of its fund management

strength with a third year of near stable profits in a habitually volatile sector.

Pre-tax profits in 1995 inched up to £197.3m, and Schroders increased the dividend by 17 per cent to 10p per share. Earnings were up 5 per cent to £139m, or 71.5 p per share.

A strong fund management performance made up for a 5 per cent drop in investment banking profits to £104m. A lot of merchant banks found the early part of last year tough going, and Schroders was no exception, with first-half investment banking profits down 33 per cent. But it pulled back in the second half.

The big worry was the 21 per cent leap in costs, well ahead of revenue growth at 14 per cent. Schroders insisted this was budgeted for, and reflected investment and restructuring right across the business. This year it wants to keep the rise in costs below the percentage growth in revenues.

The cost rise, partly due to Schroders building up a pan-European equity research and distribution capability which it feels is essential to maintain its corporate finance strength, does indicate a more risky strategy. It hurts the operating margin going forward, and makes the business more exposed to a decrease in revenues.

But the fund management side continues to impress, with a 16 per cent growth in funds under management to £74bn. Schroders is looking here for significant opportunities in the UK and internationally, both on the retail as well as the wholesale side.

The group made another fierce declaration of independence yesterday, justifying the ebbing of the bid premium, which has taken about 25 per cent off Schroders' shares. Even after that, recent underperformance forecast earnings of 77p per share put the shares on a p/e of 16. That is not cheap in the short term given the uncertainty on revenues and the shares are high enough.

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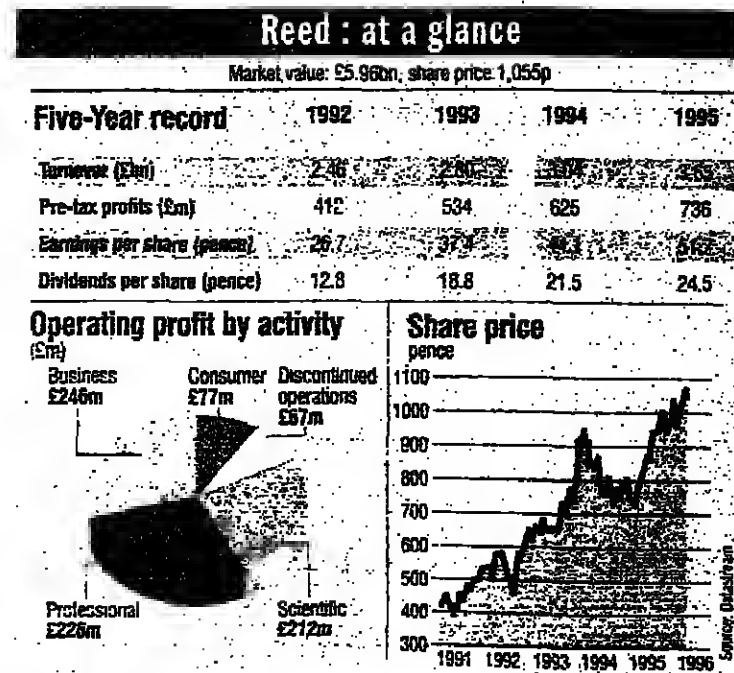
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# Financial insecurity means no early return of feelgood factor

A lot of Conservative MPs are hoping that the election on the theory that more growth and less unemployment will inject some feelgood into the voters. The trouble with this theory is that the lack of feelgood has nothing to do with the state of the business cycle. The country is not suffering an attack of economic nerves which some 1980s-style retail therapy will soothe away. We have had a complete change of economic personality.

The lack of optimism among voters is clearly linked to the jobs market, and unemployment is one aspect of it. As the great Fats Domino once said: "A lot of fellows nowadays have a BA, MD or PhD. Unfortunately they don't have a JOB".

The small rise in the claimant count last month after 29 successive declines, reported yesterday, shows that falling unemployment cannot be taken for granted. Even so, Britain's jobless rate is one of the lowest in the European Union. Yet its decline has had almost no effect on consumer confidence.

Having a job, or more chance of finding one if unemployed, is therefore not very effective elixir of good medicine. The reason it cannot do the trick is the wide spread and deep sense of job insecurity.



ECONOMIC VIEW  
DIANE COYLE

There is a bit of a puzzle here. The figures on measures of actual job insecurity do not suggest that it has changed very much. For example, according to an article in the latest issue of the *Economic Journal*, average actual job tenure has fallen only 10 per cent between 1975 and 1992. The fall is not catastrophic. The fall has been concentrated on unskilled men. Others have seen barely any change in their average length of time in one job. This evidence is in line with earlier research.

As Fats Domino once said: 'A lot of fellows have a BA, MD or PhD. What they don't have is a JOB'

There is, though, one clue about the effect of employment deregulation on jobs. That is the striking failure of overtime hours to rise during the 1990s. In past recoveries, as the chart shows, overtime climbs with output. This time hours have

stayed flat and the number of jobs has risen instead. The presumption is that as the economy weakens it will be jobs rather than hours that are cut. This makes overtime hours a good predictor of levels of consumer confidence. Professor Peter Spencer of Birkbeck College, London has found that hours beat all other candidates such as unemployment, inflation and housing market indicators in ability to explain confidence or its absence. The average level of overtime is also a very

good match for the only direct measure of job insecurity we have. That is the question in the Annual British Social Attitudes Survey about whether respondents expect the number of jobs at their own place of work to increase, stay the same or fall.

People are meant to top up their old age income from one of three sources: the state earnings related pension, an occupational pension or a personal pension. Since 1986 Serps has been scaled down so much that

it could leave many people with less than a minimum adequate retirement income. Most people with occupational pensions should be provided with enough but - even apart from any more Robert Maxwell-style difficulties - schemes might not be able to fulfil the pension promise for a variety of reasons ranging from bankruptcy of the employer to gaps created by unemployment or illness. Personal pensions carry investment risk and the uncertainty about the rate of annuity which can be purchased at the end.

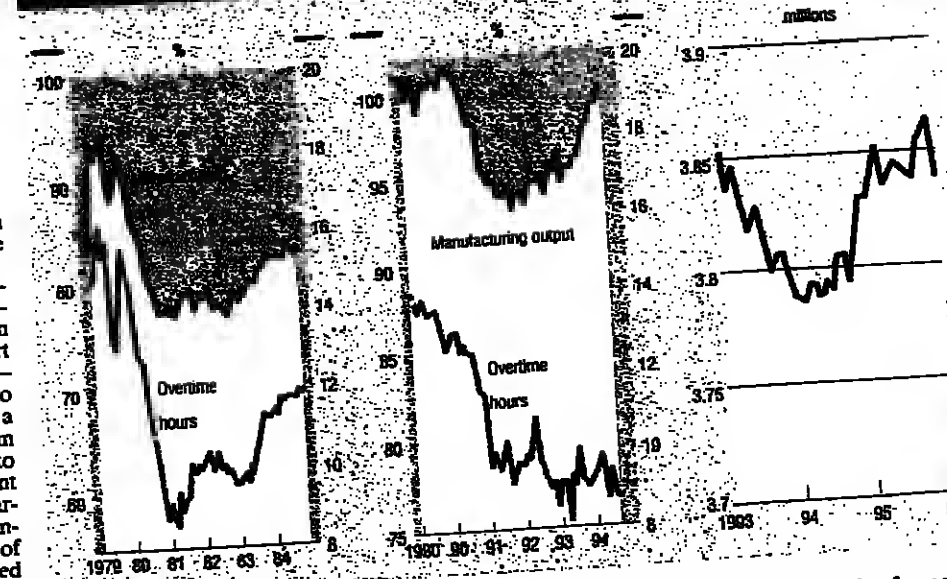
The probability is that pensioners will be on increasingly unequal incomes in the next century, with retirement income determined by decisions made 25 years earlier about which type of pension to choose - and luck. The increase in inequality is already apparent. The average pension grew 38 per cent between 1979 and 1991, but for the richest tenth of pensioners incomes grew 62 per cent. At the other end of the scale the proportion of pensioners with incomes of less than half the national average rose from 16 per cent in 1979 to about 34 per cent now.

Pensioners are not the only long-term financial worry. People are increasingly beginning to consider how they will pay for long-term care for their

parents or themselves - and anyone with more than £16,000 in assets - that is, any home owner - has to fund it themselves. Sales of insurance policies to

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Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000
Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
France	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	Canada	0.7500	0.7500	0.7500
Germany	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	Japan	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Italy	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	ECU	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Spain	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Switzerland	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Netherlands	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Sweden	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Australia	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	New Zealand	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	South Africa	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	India	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	Singapore	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Water Spot Rates		
Country	Sterling	Dollars
Argentina	15236	1099
Australia	157699	1038
Brazil	15028	088
China	127006	833
Egypt	59883	340
France	69870	458
Ghana	23624	159
Greece	367663	211
India	158669	538
Korea	04558	02

Forward rates quoted high to low and the actual quoted low to high are at a premium.

Prices were quoted as reciprocals.

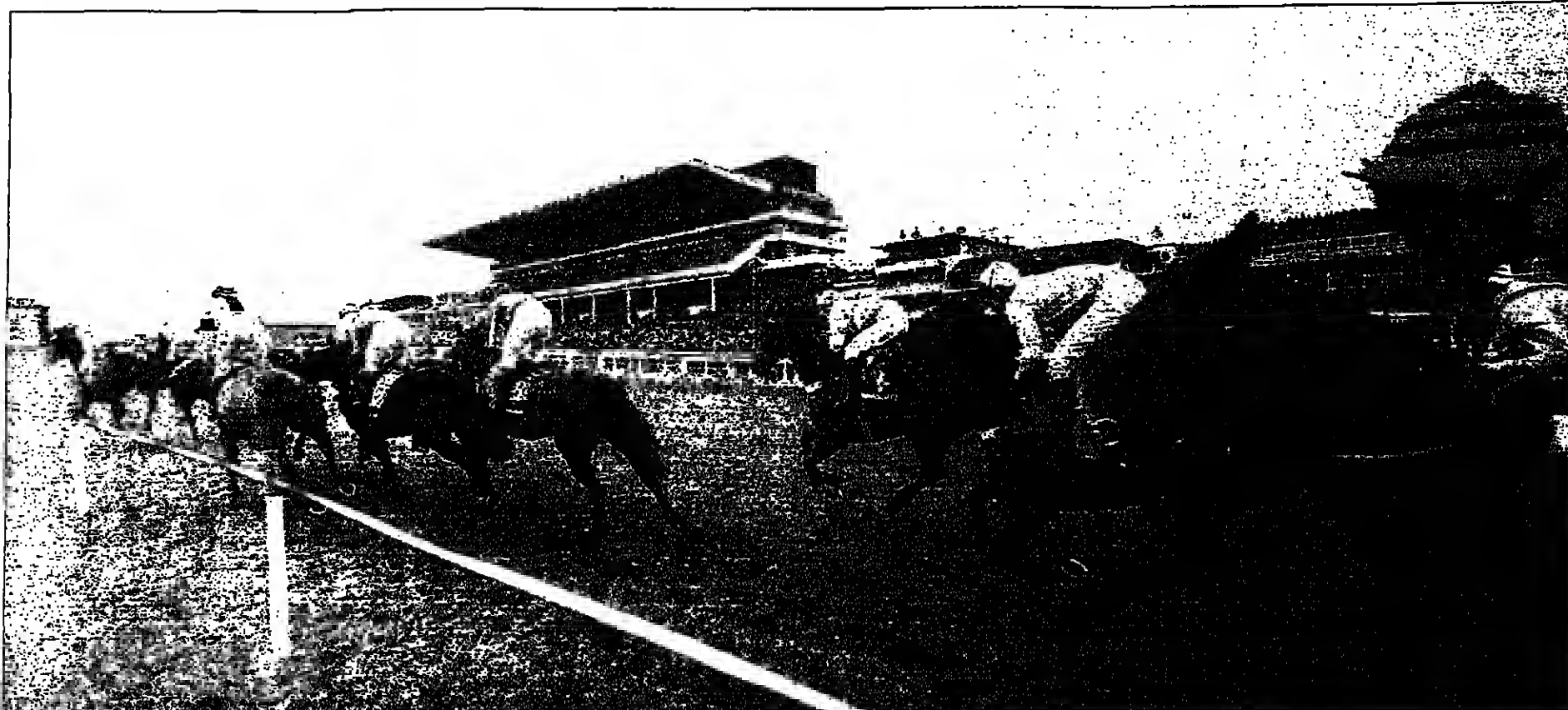
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## sport

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL: A favourite grey on the brink of wider fame is ready to shatter the statistics stacked against him



Up hill and down dale: The runners in yesterday's opening race get a taste of what awaits One Man and his rivals in today's Cheltenham Gold Cup Photograph: David Ashdown

## One Man cast in the hero's role

RICHARD EDMONDSON  
Racing Correspondent

Someone tried to steal the Gold Cup from a Cheltenham jockey in a ram-raid a fortnight ago. This week the prevailing feeling has been that One Man will have to be hit by a truck to stop the trophy going back to Cheltenham.

The grey's dominance of steeplechasing has been betted not only on whether he wins this afternoon's Blue Riband but also by how far.

Those who would like to see him victorious include people with ante-post vouchers in their pockets and others with romance in their hearts. One Man holds the promise of greatness, a horse who is one final

push away from joining the sport's most eminent names. His attributes are manifold. For a winter horse, One Man possesses unusual speed and would be a considerable force at distances much shorter than the three miles two furlongs he will negotiate today; fences seem to provide little hindrance to his impetus - when One Man jumps he bounces over. And although he does not need the assistance, the good ground that suits him best has arrived in the Cotswolds.

His qualities are hardly compromised by the fact that he is trained by Gordon Richards. The man from Greystoke is closing in on 2,000 winners during his 30-plus years with a licence and, at 66, he has captured just about every major prize that steeplechasing can offer.

There is other evidence for the doomsters, because as well as the Cheltenham hill, One Man will also have to climb over a mountain of statistics. Short-priced favourites have a deplorable record at the Festival, as do horses who come to Prestbury Park with the King

George VI Chase already under their belts. Some vocalise, rather unconvincingly, that One Man will not quite last out today's trip, but there is possibly more substance to the belief that Cheltenham is not his ideal arena. He has won 10 of his last 11 completed starts and the only blemish is his previous appearance here in the Sun Alliance Novices' Chase of two seasons ago.

Richards, though, brushes away suggestions that the horse has an aversion to the course with the swiftness and nonchalance of a smoker removing a speck of ash from his cuff. "I promise you that if I thought Cheltenham was against him I wouldn't take him there," he says. "I could never disappoint or hurt the horse."

One Man, of course, has more than the course to beat. There is the small matter of 10 others who will be getting in his way. Most prominent of these, in the betting at least, is Imperial Call, who is notable both for his recent form and because his trainer, Fergie Sutherland, left a leg behind in Asia when he stepped on a landmine in the Korean War yet continued to ride to bounds.

The gelding caused a shock when he repelled last year's Gold Cup winner, Master Oats, at Leopardstown last month, but the ground that day, as it always has been when Imperial Call has won, had plenty of juice in it. There are whispers too for Dublin Flyer, though not from the gelding's arch pessimist of a trainer, Tim Forster, who has spent all week wondering when

a Chinese satellite was going to land on his head. Dublin Flyer will probably be in front in the contest for longer than any other horse, but whether his stamina is sufficient for him to hold the position to the end is open to question. Barton Bank can be discounted as if someone has been shining a torch in his eyes while the handicappers could not. Be Better and Rough Quest suffer from a joint problem. Neither are good enough.

For the value-seekers the obvious choice is Young Hustler, a Festival winner who will relish the ground. But for those who have been searching for the next, great horse the quest should be at an end. One Man can do it for Gordon Richards, he can do it for racing as a whole.

GOLD CUP - 10-YEAR-OLD										
1986	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	
Fate of the favourite	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Winner's place in betting	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Starting prices	15-8	13-2	10-1	5-2	30-1	16-1	25-4	8-4	7-4	10-3
Age	8	9	10	10	9	8	10	8	9	9
Profit or loss to £1 stake	Favourites +£1.70	Second Favourites +£2.00								
Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race	60%									
Shortest-priced winner	Disert Orchid 5-2 (1989)									
Longest-priced winner	Norton's Own 100-1 (1990)									
Top trainer	No trainer has won this race more than once in past 10 years									
Top jockey	No jockey has won this race more than once in past 10 years									

**CHELTENHAM**  
2.15 DARTER, who clocked a smart time when beating Dymally by seven lengths at Windsor, will be suited by the drying ground and looks a fair each-way bet at 14-1 with Ladbrokes. Magical Lady, Escapade, Paddy's Return, Debutante Days and Mistwings are dangers.

**HYPERION'S TV TIPS**  
BOB's chasing career last month and the selection, third in last year's Sun Alliance Hurdle before beating a good field over two-and-a-half miles on good ground at Punchestown in April, will be suited by this trip.

**3.30 DUBLIN FLYER**, probably the most agile jumper in training, will be hard to catch. The 10-year-old was impressive in the Mackeson here in November and a form line through second-placed Eglis Mill Prince gives him the beating of

Racing Post Chase winner Rough Quest, Barton Bank and Young Hustler. Brilliant King George winner One Man has had an interrupted preparation and is unproven at this trip. The handicappers could not see Be Better and Monsieur Le Curé need softer ground.

**4.05 COOL DAWN** humbled a good quality field at Kempton last time. The same rider is in the saddle today and, barring accidents, should take this.

# CHELTENHAM

<b>2.15 DARTER (nap)</b>	<b>4.40 Martin's Lamp</b>
<b>2.50 Treble Bob</b>	<b>5.15 Morrell</b>
<b>3.30 Dublin Flyer</b>	<b>5.50 Romancer</b>
<b>4.05 Cool Dawn (nb)</b>	

GOING: Good

■ Left-hand, sloping course with stiff fences. Uphill run of 240yd.

■ Course is only, mile north of town of Ayles, has link from Cheltenham station (serve to Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) two miles away. **ADMISSION:** Club 50p; Turfwalks 12p; Fowls & Enclosure 10p **U CAR PARK 5p.**

SIS

■ **LEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS WITH WINNERS:** M Nicholson—8 winners from 11 runners; good success ratio of 15.7% and a profit in 41 level stakes of £2,008; M Blandford—5 winners, 11 runners, 11.1%, -£5,352; M Pipe—a winner, 124 runners, 42.2%, -£8,172; M Twiston-Davies—a 4 winners, 39 runners, 10.3%, +£54,461.

■ **LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKEYS WITH RIDES:** C Swan—8 winners, 47 rides, 17.0%.

**2.15 DARTER**, who clocked a smart time when beating Dymally by seven lengths at Windsor, will be suited by the drying ground and looks a fair each-way bet at 14-1 with Ladbrokes. Magical Lady, Escapade, Paddy's Return, Debutante Days and Mistwings are dangers.

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**4.05 COOL DAWN** humbled a good quality field at Kempton last time. The same rider is in the saddle today and, barring accidents, should take this.

**4.05 CHRISTIE FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £19,364**  
1. 45-2-2 CAPE COUNTRY (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
7. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
8. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

**5.15 CATHART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (CLASS B) £45,000 added 2m 5f £32,720**  
1. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
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8. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

2.15 DAILY EXPRESS TRIUMPH HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £45,000 added 470 yds 11 f £44,609										
1	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
2	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
3	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
4	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
5	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
6	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
7	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
8	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
9	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
10	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
11	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
12	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
13	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
14	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
15	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
16	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
17	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
18	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
19	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
20	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
21	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
22	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
23	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
24	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
25	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
26	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
27	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
28	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
29	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								
30	12-0-0	ANWYN (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0								

**2.50 BONSUPP STAYERS' HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £75,000 added 3m 110yds £53,555**  
1. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
7. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
8. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

**3.00 BONSUPP STAYERS' HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £75,000 added 3m 110yds £53,555**  
1. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
7. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
8. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 29-11-0 ALEXANDER (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

**4.00 GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £35,000 added 2m 110yds £28,479**  
1. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
7. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
8. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 22-2-2 MARTIN'S LAMP (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

**4.05 CHRISTIE FOXHUNTER CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £19,364**  
1. 45-2-2 CAPE COUNTRY (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
7. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
8. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 16-0-0 CLARK (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

**5.15 CATHART CHALLENGE CUP CHASE (CLASS B) £45,000 added 2m 5f £32,720**  
1. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
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8. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 12-0-0 MORRIS (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

**5.50 VINCENT O'BRIEN COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS A) (Grade 3) £30,000 added 2m 11f Penalty Value £26,424**  
1. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
2. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
3. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
4. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
5. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
6. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
7. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
8. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
9. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0  
10. 10-0-03 CORNWALL TWICE (2) (J) M J O'Connell 12-0

It's not just Bruno that should be alarmed.

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## sport

## Tyson determined but no longer assured

Ken Jones reports from Las Vegas with a revealing insight into the state of mind and body of a title challenger

When Mike Tyson was first shown a video of the contest that saw Frank Bruno outpoint Oliver McCall in London last September to become the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, he questioned immediately the notion that the British hero might be too dangerous a proposition. "You can't be serious," Tyson said scathingly to his co-managers, John Horne and Rory Hottelway.

Since the titles held out by the major boxing organisations were in Don King's pocket, the grand plan of unification could have taken a different, less hazardous direction. Tyson says now that he did not opt for Bruno, merely went along with what King, Horne and Hottelway decided, but in view of the independence he established upon being released from prison and fixed up

with a six-fight deal so far worth around \$100m (£40m), this takes some believing.

It is more likely that when Tyson looked again at the fighter who became one of his many battered victims seven years ago, surviving only until the fifth round, he did not see much in the way of improvement, certainly not enough to worry him. Personally, there have been plenty of occasions in this town when it seemed advisable to proceed with caution, and I do not mean when engaging in games of chance or on visits to the vast betting emporiums. In attempting to predict the outcome of prize-fights you run the risk of being made to look foolish. Quite remarkable upsets have put a strain on the process of logic and given credibility to naive thinkers. Going back more years than I find



Mike Tyson, in training for Saturday's world heavyweight title fight against Frank Bruno, is worried about missing 'with too many punches'

Photograph: Sean Dempsey/PA

comfortable to remember, it was impossible to imagine that Leon Spinks, a 15-1 outsider, had the beating of Muhammad Ali but he capitalised sensationally on the great man's slovenly preparation. You can throw in George Foreman's defeat of Michael Moore too. Few gave Foreman much of a chance against the World Boxing Organisation's titleholder, but when a distance drift on the official scorecards he knocked out Moore to become, at 46, the oldest heavyweight champion in history. This week, Bruno is at 10-1 to de-

feat Tyson inside the distance, surely his only means of victory, so what is it that casts doubts on the outcome of Saturday's proceedings at the MGM Grand entertainment complex in Las Vegas? Is it Bruno's relaxed air, his confident utterances, or a suspicion that Tyson may be only a shell of the fighter who brought a reign of terror to the heavyweight division?

Some of Tyson's statements suggest the affliction of uncertainty, as though he can no longer find the fearsome purpose that characterised the first phase of his career.

"Really, I don't know," he said recently. "I look at boxing differently now than I did back then. Back then, I looked at it like it was fun. It came so easy. Everything is more of a burden now, more responsibilities. I don't know if I should use the word burden. But I'm just not a happy type of guy. As a Muslim my main objective as far as beliefs goes is to have the most respect for humanity in general. My religion gives me a broader perspective. It enables me to be at peace with myself and lets me know that life is not necessarily about being successful

and making a great deal of money, but conducting yourself in a way God will appreciate." When people hear Tyson say those things they wonder about him. What goes on in his mind, what sort of future does he imagine for himself? The meanderings have a cosmic quality, but not so that they are easily dismissed as mere flights of fancy. "There's always pressure," he added, "and it increases with maturity. Hopefully, and praise be to God, I'll be able to deal with it."

Inevitably, Tyson's worst memories concern the loss of his freedom,

the three years he spent banged up in the Indiana Youth Centre after being found guilty of raping a beauty queen contestant. "It was a bad experience," he said, "took away my dignity. But prison gave me time to reflect on what happened to me. You sit down and try to read and it just all flares up again. In time you understand the angles that were placed in your life and how the puzzles were put together to place you in that position. And you say, 'Wow, how could that have happened?' Then you leave your cell and you are surrounded by other problems

and you think, 'What is all this about?'

One of the things that can be sensed in Tyson is frustration, brought about probably by difficulties of timing that were clearly evident in the two contests he had undertaken since returning to the ring. "Sometimes it feels as though I'm getting there, then I'm all over the place again," he confided this week. "I've got back my power and speed but I still miss with too many punches."

A safe conclusion is that reports of mayhem in the gymnasium are more than slightly exaggerated as they have been throughout boxing history. However it is unquestionably a truth that one of Tyson's sparring partners was utterly sickened by a hook that arrived with alarming suddenness. "In that moment Mike looked his old self," a reliable witness said. "The impact was frightening and if Bruno feels just one of those shots Mills [the referee Mills Lane] won't have to do any counting."

In his young prime, when a bleak glance was enough to make opponents tremble, as even the old war-

**'It was a bad experience, took away my dignity, but prison gave me time to reflect'**

rior Larry Holmes did one night in Atlantic City, nothing appeared to intrude upon the grim purpose implanted by Tyson's mentor, the late Cus D'Amato. He was, as Lennox Lewis is fond of saying about himself, "entirely focused about his victory." Nobody at the time, not even the big heavyweights he sometimes found troublesome, were given a chance of interrupting his raging progress. Then the effects of a flawed nature. A dissipation of his powers. "By the time I fought Bruno I was almost out of control," Tyson admitted. Confused, he was no longer the fighter D'Amato fashioned. Now, Tyson looks determined but sometimes conveys an impression of uncertainty. Maybe he is trying to remember all the things D'Amato told him to do.

## Boardman slips off the pace

## Cycling

Britain's Chris Boardman slipped one place to fourth overall yesterday as Laurent Jalabert extended his lead in the Paris-Nice race with a repeat victory over his chief rival, Lance Armstrong, on the fourth stage from Mantes-la-Jolie to Millau.

The Frenchman, the world No 1, finished 15 seconds clear on the 167-kilometre fourth stage, with Armstrong, of the United States, again second after another climbing contest all the way to the line. Laurent

Brochard, of France, was third, a further seven seconds adrift. Jalabert, who won this eight-day race last year, is 35 seconds ahead of Armstrong in the overall positions after breaking clear in the final kilometre of the winding 7.6-km ascent of the wooded slopes of Causse Noir.

Boardman, who had been third overall, lost 49 seconds on Jalabert on that climb, finishing ninth in a string-out field. Overall he is 1min and 59sec down on the leader, Jalabert, who said: "The race is not over yet and I fear everyone."

Before the start Boardman had warned: "Jalabert needs

only another 10 seconds gain on me and he will be unassailable." The Briton had hoped to limit the damage on the climbs so that he could challenge for overall victory in the final stage, a 19.9km time trial along the Mediterranean coast to Nice on Sunday.

Following yesterday's stage, Boardman said: "I was not going as fast as I did on Tuesday. There is still a chance to be in the top three overall but it is going to be incredibly difficult." Today's stage is a 159km circuit, starting and finishing in Millau.

Results: Sporting Digest, page 25

## FIVE NATIONS: Underdogs are ready as Rowell again preaches an open gate

## Poppowell left none the wiser



Unpredictable and underdogs, Ireland come to Twickenham this Saturday the same as they ever do. If it is disappointing for the opposition never knowing quite what to expect from the boys in green, it's no less disquieting for the Irish that they never know either.

The postscript to the 1996 campaign is liable to read *plus ça change*. A state of high optimism before the first game, quickly giving way to suicidal pessimism, highlighted by some sort of new record in defeat (usually at Parc des Princes) and rescued by an improvement in the second half of the season.

Whereas others, most notably England, rumble along in a straight line, Ireland lurch and bump along a roller-coaster. Many fall off along the way, and only four players have survived from the Twickenham victory of two seasons ago.

No one has suffered more bumps and bruises more shocks to his equilibrium, along the way than Nick Poppowell, the 31-year-old, career-vet veteran who made his debut in 1989. Which is why he believes the pattern can be repeated this Saturday with an Irish win. "Oh of course, yeah, definitely," he says. "Because I think we can beat anyone on occasions, I've never gone into a match thinking we're not going to win it, although it seems most of the time that's the way it happens. I think England are in the same position as they were two years ago. They'd won matches and were under pressure to score tries."

"We hooked them out for the first 20 minutes, then we blocked them out for the first 40 minutes, they started trying to create things out of nothing and it didn't really work. The back row had a superb game and all of a sudden, out of nothing, it became a dogfight in the last 10 minutes and we came out with a win."

When beating England in

David Hughes on the one constant in the Irish team's roller-coaster ride

'83 and '84, Ireland won only one other championship match, against Wales naturally. Ireland has become a cliché, and one Poppowell struggles to reject.

"I think that's too much of a generality. It does work out that way but England beat us last year we were underdogs. I can't put a finger on it through all these years I've been there. I wish I could."

Clearly, an enduring career in an Irish shirt has made him none the wiser. It has even reduced him to tears, most memorably in the moment of victory against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park in 1993, coming as it did after 11 successive defeats. You would cry at times, too, if you were an Irish rugby player.

His bleakest moments in an Irish shirt came after this season's opening defeat to the Scots, and here we are on the not-so-merry roller-coaster again. "I really felt this was the year we were going to do something. I had a piss-poor game to be honest with you and I felt responsible for a lot of it and then for the first time in three or four years I felt that I was genuinely under pressure."

On a personal level, he is adamant that that will not happen again next season. The cause was a lack of match practice brought about by joining Newcastle this season and the resultant 120-day ban from competitive rugby. "Unfortunately it's the reality of the new world."

But the same new world has granted him a four and a half year contract and with it the promise of full-time professional rugby.

On a general level he remains at a loss to explain it all. "I don't know the reasons. Up to now I suppose you could say that we



Poppowell: Hopes to be fit

might have been better prepared on this or that but these excuses are now gone.

"We seem to be prone to starting the season very poorly. We tried to avoid that by playing a couple of matches before we went into the Five Nations. They went really well, and then history says the rest. We just collapsed against the Scots, got worse against the French and I suppose you could say we beat a poor Welsh side. We just seemed to be going forward most of the time, which certainly helped fatten like me."

A self-deprecating wit is a necessary buffer, especially this season. Poppowell apportioned blame for the latest anti-climatic campaign squarely on the shoulders of the senior players, "including myself."

Hence his desperate desire to play at Twickenham, despite a worrisome if slight hamstringing tear but he is confident of being declared fit. "It's happened to me before and as people will tell you I don't ever sprint on it anyway. I don't need it as much as someone like Geoghegan."

Mention of Geoghegan recalls his match-winning try at Twickenham two years ago. That, and Peter Clough's first-half tackle on Philip de Glanville constitutes Poppowell's abiding memories of the game. "Claw's tackle on De Glanville set the trend for the whole day. Out of nowhere Claw out De Glanville in our 22. Jaysus, splintered him altogether and as so often happens a big tackle just gets people in the right frame of mind."

It may well require some similar moment of inspiration to trigger another footbook-tearing Irish performance. And who knows if it will, least of Ireland.

## Richards fit for an Irish finale

## STEVE BALE

Dean Richards was perfectly happy for his twisted knee to cause him to miss last Sunday's England training session but yesterday there was no escape and - to the unbridled relief of all but the Irish - he was assessed fit for Saturday's Triple Crown match at Twickenham.

Barely a month ago, Jack Rowell, the manager, was still expecting - or at any rate hoping - that England could get by without their long-serving No 8. Now, having personally created the conditions under which Scotland's Grand Slam aspirations were ended, even at 32 Richards remains the nearest thing to indispensable.

He played a full part in yesterday's private session at the Bank of England ground, including the scrummaging practice. The Irish are also relieved that the most-capped player in their team, the Lions prop Nick Poppowell, should have recovered sufficiently from a hamstring injury.

Whether England really do open up their rugby against Ireland will probably depend on whether Richards is personally inclined to instigate the change. That said, this is yet again Rowell's sincere intention as expressed when his team gathered in Richmond yesterday.

"Accepting it is a rebuilding year, we do not believe we've done justice at Twickenham to our talents," the manager said. "We'd like to think there will be more ball moving across the face of the threequarters and that is our strategic intent."

"We haven't got to imposing it at Twickenham this year and the sooner we get back to it the better. Only in the Scotland and France games did we play tactically and there's no inhibition in game plans for the backs to have the ball. Full stop."

"Strategic" and "tactical" are euphemistic Rowellisms for the restricted rugby that gained England their Murrayfield victory, though Scots were less polite with their adjectives. There is currently a direct comparison with the Super-12 provincial series taking place in the southern hemisphere and the restrictions, if we are to believe the manager, are about to be lifted.

"We'd like to see the backs running more freely and with confidence. We pick an attacking full-back on purpose, specifically to play English-style open rugby. It's a must for the good of the game generally. When you watch the Super-12s, the pace and width of the game, we've got to get there in an English way as soon as possible."

Saturday's match will tell whether Rowell's thinking is wishful, but if nothing else a liberated England performance would be a suitable way to send off Will Carling as he retires from the captaincy. Last Sunday Carling notably refrained from anything that could be construed as praise of Rowell and yesterday's managerial remarks, though entirely laudatory, seemed as much valediction as tribute.

Carling will doubtless be glad of the relative comfort of the back pages after returning to the front pages this week but the slow handclaps of his home crowd remain a disagreeable memory of the Samoan and Welsh matches. "He will want to leave Twickenham with the right relationship with everyone there and that includes the crowd," Rowell said.

"His leadership this season in a team that's rebuilding has been a big challenge, but the way he put his leadership together in the run-up and the game in Scotland... I've never seen anything better than that in my rugby life."

## Kick out rules that discourage running

## From Mr A Richards

Sir: As an Australian who was born in Wales I have little truck with England winning at any sport but I do think that your 'leader' was a little unfair to the England rugby union team. Under the rules, England are quite entitled to kick themselves to vic-

tory, even if you now have the extraordinary situation that the team at the bottom of the Championship (Wales) have scored three times as many tries as England, who are second.

You were much closer to the mark when you stated that the rules should be changed to encourage a running game. The number of "offences" from which a penalty kick at goal can be taken is absurd. The game

## SPORTS LETTER

is forever being brought to a standstill. If an offence warrants a penalty then it should be taken in front of the posts. At the moment the value of the try varies according to where the offence occurred. This makes no sense to me.

Most offences should be treated as free kicks and the of-

fending side should retreat by 20 metres to encourage running. Finally, why do we put up with conversion kicks? This also slows the game down. Everyone knows that some of the best tries are scored in the corner yet this decreases the chance for the attacking side to take seven points. Tries should be awarded the full seven points.

In this environment teams would have to play "handball"

as opposed to "football" - even England. Yours sincerely, ANDREW RICHARDS, Wimbledon SW19 5DG. Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 20, Cannon Square, London E14 3DL. They may be shortened for reasons of space.

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